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Readers are invited to send questions seeking clarification of the policy of the Government or allied matters. Answers will be published as soon as possible.

The Honourable Minister for Prohibition is addressing a meeting at Palghat.

27 NOV 1947

Madras Information

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Vol. I, No. 24 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" November 15, 1947

Rationing Offences

By Sri E. VEERABHADRA PILLAI, Provincial Controller of Food Rationing

Rationing of foodgrains has been in force in our Province for the last four years and the people should be quite conversant with its rules and regulations. They know full well that but for the introduction of rationing, the Province would have faced a similar woeful situation as Bengal had in 1943. Still we find a large number of evasions and violations of the rationing regulations. The reasons are not far to seek. There are several instances in which the reduction in ration when a member of their family leaves the town or dies is not applied for but the full rations are drawn for the absent or non-existent member also till the fact is actually found out by the Rationing staff in their periodical verification. Temporary guests are sometimes represented as permanent additions to the family and rations are increased on a permanent basis. Though the guests may leave the town after some time rations are drawn for them also till it is found out. Some apply for ration for their guests for longer periods than their stay would warrant and appropriate the extra rations for themselves. A few persons use the cards of others or allow others to use their ration cards thereby enabling them to draw more rations than to which they are entitled. Some persons even manage to get ration in the name of bogus persons. If these subterfuges do not get them sufficient quantity for all their lavish uses, they do not hesitate to purchase rice in black-market. They know full well that all these are offences under rationing rules and that they are appropriating rice which would otherwise be available for other needy people.

There is another set of irregularities connected with the hotel keepers and retail dealers in foodgrains, actuated by personal gain. Some of the hotel keepers are not satisfied with the limited quantity of foodgrains rationed to them. With a view to get more profit they purchase foodgrains in black-market and prepare eatables far in excess of the quota allowed to them. Recently a raid was made of these hotels and it was found that some of the hotel keepers were preparing iddli, dosai and pongal out of rice though no rice was allowed to them for the purpose. Some hotels which run both meal and tiffin section unauthorizedly utilize for tiffin the rice given for the meals section.

The retailers who are authorized by Government to deal in foodgrains form the main source of all black-markets. They get rice from the Government godowns in bags of two maunds each and the Government have fixed the contents of each bag at 46 measures. This was fixed after allowing a reasonable margin for dryage, etc., from the place of export till it reaches retailers. Generally the bags contain a little in excess of 46 measures which may in some rare cases amount to 1½ to 2 measures. The retailers are expected to bring to their account any such excess in the bags they deal out but in some instances this is not being done and the excess is set apart for selling in black-market. Some resort to short-measuring to the customers and save one or two measures of rice per bag. Not being satisfied with the quantity got in the above two ways, they find out the cardholders who do not draw ration in a week, credit ration against their cards on the last day of the week and sell the ration to others at higher rates. Thus some unscrupulous retailers manage to get fairly large quantity of rice extra and they sell it in black-market to the needy cardholders and hotel keepers. Steps are being taken to minimise the scope for black-marketing by refixing the contents of a bag. But there is a real need for a change in their outlook and they should put the public interest instead of their selfish gains foremost, in the interest of common frod.

The ryots who produce foodgrains are not all free from blame. They are required to make an honest declaration of their stocks and the requirements and give away the surplus to the producing agents so that the surplus may be made use of for people in the deficit areas either in the same district or outside it. But unfortunately some persons do not declare their stocks correctly. They under-rate their produce but inflate their requirements and keep back a fair portion of their produce from the Government procuring agents and sell it in black-market for higher prices. There are some others who purchase from producers and sell at a greater profit. Thus we have various sets of people who care more for their conveniences and personal gains than for the common interest. Of course there are rules and regulations to punish such offenders and in fact some are punished and that too deterrently when caught; but many cases escape detection for obvious reasons. In these days of acute shortage of foodgrains when every grain saved is badly needed to feed the hungry, all people high and low, should set aside their personal conveniences and gains, observe austerity measures, and co-operate wholeheartedly with the Rationing authorities to enable them to distribute the available grains to the maximum number of people for the maximum period. The Hon'ble Ministers and all the officers are making an all out attempt to procure the maximum quantity of grains from the ryots and the response is much beyond expectation. When the critical food situation is explained, the innate sense of charity of the ryots is stirred and most of them willingly offer their stocks. If others also rise up to the occasion, adopt austerity measures in their daily life, reduce the use of food materials to a minimum in functions and marriages, forget for the present their undue gains and be honest in their dealings, it is quite possible to tide over the food crisis.

Madras Government Press Notes

Education

D.A. for teachers in aided schools

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that managements of certain aided educational institutions other than elementary schools are not paying dearness allowance or war allowance at Government rates to the members of their teaching staff, in spite of instructions to that effect issued as early as 1st April 1945. The Government have, therefore, asked the Director of Public Instruction to look into such cases and find out whether the inability has been due to the lack of financial resources of the institutions concerned. If it is found that the resources are ample enough, the Director is empowered to insist on the payment of dearness allowance at Government rates in future. Even after such direction, if the managements receiving teaching grants from provincial funds do not pay the allowance at Government rates, the Director can withhold the grant payable to the management in full or in part. Refusal of payment of the allowance at Government rates by the managements of schools which do not earn any teaching grant will be considered a valid reason for withdrawal of recognition. It is proposed to make necessary amendments to the Grant-in-Aid Code in accordance to ensure that the orders referred to above are carried out.

[October 28]

Rayalaseema and Andhra 'Varsity

In a press release, dated 13th September 1947, the Government released the report of the Committee constituted to consider the question of bringing the Rayalaseema districts within the jurisdiction of the Andhra University. It was also announced that opinions of members of the public on the report should be sent to the Government within one month of the publication of the report.

Subsequently, in another press release, dated 16th October 1947, the Government released the full text of the minute of dissent signed by two members of the Committee. In view of this, the Government feel that some more time should be given to the public to communicate their opinions on the report and they have accordingly extended the time limit for the purpose up to 20th November 1947.

[October 28]

Overseers' course

The Government have directed that the L.C.E. course now conducted in the Engineering College, Guindy, be abolished from July 1948 and that an Overseers' course of two years duration be started instead. The students already undergoing the L.C.E. course will be allowed to complete their course.

The Government have decided that the L.C.E. course conducted in the Government Polytechnics should also be abolished and an Overseers' course similar to that to be started in the Engineering College, Guindy, should be started in the Polytechnics. The new course in the Polytechnic will also be designated as the "Overseers' course."

A course for the overseers will be started in the Engineering College, Guindy, immediately, and 100 students will be admitted, of whom 40 will be from the mufassal. The minimum qualification for admission to the Overseers' course will be S.S.L.C. (Eligible).

[November 1]

Educational Concessions

It has been brought to the notice of the Government that some of the discharge certificates produced by the demobilised personnel contain no information as to whether their terms of service included liability to serve overseas and whether they were making remittances to their families. The Government have, therefore, ordered that the discharge certificate produced by ex-soldiers in support of the claim for the award of educational concessions to their children and dependants should be sent through the Secretary of the District Sailors', Soldiers' and Airmen's Board of the district concerned, with a view to enabling the latter to issue the prescribed certificate.

[November 3]

The Museum and the Connemara Library

The Administration Report of the Government Museum and the Connemara Public Libraray for 1946–47 shows that there were notable additions to the Museum collections during the year. The number of coins acquired was 14 gold, 1,424 silver and 12 copper coins. The silver coins except 17 were all coins of the Roman Emperors, Augustus and Tiberius from hoard discovered in Coimbatore district.

Educational Demonstrations were given by the Museum to 83 teachers. Students from colleges and schools in the City and mufassal visited the Museum in an organized manner. Museum exhibits were loaned to the Central Asian Antiquities Museum for their special exhibition in connection with the Inter-Asian Relations Conference.

The usefulness of the Connemara Public Library continued to be appreciated by the public. The number of readers who visited the library increased from 52,289 to 59,515 and the number of volumes consulted from 157,140 to 178,545.

[November 6]

Scholarships for Royal Indian Navy Candidates

The Government of Madras have been annually awarding scholarship of the value of £260 from the year 1946 to the Madras candidate sending highest in the list of successful candidates in the open competitive Royal Indian Navy Examination conducted by the Federal Public Service Commission each year and selected for training for entry into the Commissioned ranks of the Royal Indian Navy in order to enable him to meet the expenses of his training in the United Kingdom. As the parent's or guardian's share of the cost of training has been reduced from £260 to £116 the Government have now decided to institute two scholarships of the value of £116 instead of one scholarship of the value of £260 from the year 1947 onwards to be awarded annually to the two Madras candidates standing highest at the first two open competitive Royal Indian Navy Examinations held each year.

[November 6]

Public Services

Corruption among Government Servants.

During the period January to August 1947 corruption among Government servants was brought to notice against 299 persons. Of these 299, 45 were let off as the charges against them were not proved and proceedings against 203 were still pending at the close of the period. Corruption was successfully detected in the case of the remaining 51 persons and they were suitably punished. The departments to which the persons who were punished belonged and the nature of the punishment awarded are given below :—

Department.	*Number of persons.*	*Nature of punishment.*
Police	21	16 dismissed from service, 3 reduced to lower rank, 1 censured and 1 awarded blackmark.
Revenue ..	9	6 dismissed from service, 1 removed from service, 1 convicted and 1 probation terminated.
Agriculture ..	7	1 dismissed, 1 removed, 1 services terminated, 1 pay reduced, 1 increment stopped, 1 declared unfit to hold independent charge and 1 censured.
Registration ..	4	2 dismissed and 2 pay reduced.
Food	3	2 convicted and 1 removed from service.
Forest	2	1 dismissed from service and 1 services terminated.
Judicial ..	2	1 compulsorily retired and 1 reduced in rank.
Education ..	1	Dismissed from service.
Provincial Rationing.	1	Increment stopped.
Transport ..	1	Removed from service.

[November 5]

Future of certain categories of service

The Government have issued orders defining the future of those persons who have been selected for and appointed to a service, class or category, by direct recruitment on or after 2nd June 1944, but who have not probationary rights.

It may be recalled that according to Government Orders, dated 15th March 1947, in the case of persons selected and appointed on or after 2nd June 1944, only the most suitable will be retained against dereserved vacancies irrespective of seniority or subject to the communal rule where it normally applies. Government now direct that this principle should be applied in all cases where persons selected and appointed by direct recruitment on or after 2nd June 1944, have to be discharged for want of vacancies up to 31st March 1948, by which date recruitment of war service candidates should be almost complete and most of the war-time temporary posts would also have been abolished. The rule issued in Government Order, dated 5th February 1945, will be cancelled in due course with effect from 1st April 1948. After this is done the appointing authorities may allow persons whom it is possible to retain beyond 1st April 1948, probationary rights with retrospective effect under rule 29 (*a*) of the General Rules for Provincial and Subordinate Services and confirm them in available substantive vacancies.

It may be recalled that at the time of issuing the Government Order, dated 2nd June 1947, it was anticipated that most of the persons recruited on a temporary basis will have to be discharged to give place to war service candidates or on the abolition of temporary war-time posts.

The main reason for denying the ordinary rights of reappointment after discharge was that they should not block the normal recruitment of young men from the colleges and schools during the post-war period. A considerable number of these temporary posts are, however, likely to continue without break in the vacancies dereserved and allotted to civilians with reference to G.O. No. 821, Public (Services), dated 15th March 1947, or in other temporary vacancies created for work connected with post-war development schemes.

[November 5]

D.A. of Gazetted Officers Revised

After a review of the existing scheme of cost of living allowances, in the light of the orders of the Government of India on the subject, the Government of Madras have revised the existing rates of allowances in respect of Gazetted Officers with effect from 16th August 1947, as follows :—

1. 'Married' officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 per mensem will receive an allowance equal to 17½ per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 50 per mensem and a maximum of Rs. 100 per mensem.
2. 'Married' Officers on pay exceeding Rs. 1,000 but not more than Rs. 2,000 per mensem will draw 10 per cent of pay subject to a maximum of Rs. 150 per mensem.
3. 'Married' officers on pay more than Rs. 2,000 but not more than Rs. 2,150 per mensem will draw as allowance the amount by which the pay falls short of Rs. 2,150.
4. 'Single' officers drawing pay up to Rs. 1,000 per mensem will receive an allowance equal to 10 per cent of pay subject to a minimum of Rs. 40 and a maximum of Rs. 75 per mensem.
5. 'Single' officers drawing pay exceeding Rs. 1,000 but not more than Rs. 1,075 per mensem will draw as allowance the amount by which the pay falls short of Rs. 1,075.

The other conditions regulating the grant of cost of living (war) allowance during leave, deputation, etc., will continue to apply as heretofore.

The question of the applicability of the orders in the case of officers belonging to the former Secretary of State's Services is under consideration and separate orders will issue.

[October 30]

Cost of Public Services and Pensioners in 1946-47

Statistics of the strength and cost of the several services in this Province as well as the number of pensioners and the amount of pensionary liabilities of the Government during 1946-47,

(*Continued on page* 4)

Food

Village Food Committees Abolished

The Government have decided that the Village Food Committees should be abolished forthwith and their functions taken over by the appropriate officers of the Revenue and Civil Supplies departments. The Rationing Advisory Committees in towns and in major panchayat areas will, however, continue without any change in their composition and functions for this year.

It may be pointed out that the question of continuance or otherwise of the Food Committees had been seriously engaging the attention of the Government for sometime past. Reports from most of the Collectors have shown that the working of the Village Committees had been unsatisfactory and this opinion was shared by a large body of non-officials also.

[October 28]

Who is a Producer?

With a view to build up sufficient stocks of foodgrains by improving the procurement of foodgrains, the Government sanctioned some bonus schemes in the year 1946, under which a bonus was paid to producers for the foodgrains delivered by them to the Government procuring agents during the months of June and July in the first instance and then again during the months of September, October and November 1946. In that connexion, several representations were received by the Government requesting them to define the term "producer" and to state clearly who was entitled to the bonus—whether the landlord or the cultivator—in cases where the landlord was not the actual cultivator. The Government accordingly issued a Press Note on 7th November 1946 defining the term "producer" in which it was made clear that so far as the Government was concerned, the bonus would be paid only to the person who actually sold the foodgrain to their procuring agents and held the E. Form receipt covering the sale, that it was not possible for them to find out in each case what portion of the bonus should go to the landlord and what portion to the tenant and that if either of the two had managed to get the other's share of the bonus, it was open to the aggrieved party to seek relief against the person to whom the bonus was paid.

In view of the paddy bonus scheme sanctioned this year, the Government have again received similar representations, asking for clarification of their policy in the matter. Therefore, the Government want to make it clear that there is no change in the policy announced by them in the last year. The public is hereby informed that as it will be impossible for the officers entrusted with the duty of disbursing the bonus to verify in each case whether the person mentioned in the E. Form is really the producer or not before disbursing the bonus, the person mentioned in the E. Form would generally be treated as the producer entitled to the bonus and the amount paid to him, and that in cases where somebody else claims the amount, the claim will be honoured only if the person mentioned in the E. Form gives his unequivocal consent.

[October 21]

Area under Paddy

The average area under paddy in Madras Province during the five years ending 1944–45 represents 13·3 per cent of the total area under paddy in India. The area sown with paddy up to 30th September 1947 is estimated at 6,203,000 acres. When compared with the area of 5,925,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of last year it reveals an increase of 4·7 per cent. The area estimated is the same as that for the last year in the districts of Coimbatore and the Nilgiris. A decrease in the area is estimated in the districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Bellary, Nellore, South Arcot and South Kanara and an increase in area in the other districts of the Province. The increase is due mainly to timely rains and sufficient supply in irrigation sources. The first crop of paddy has been harvested in parts of East Godavari, West Godavari, South Arcot, Chittoor, Coimbatore, Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura, Tinnevelly, Malabar and South Kanara. The yield per acre is expected to be generally normal or slightly below the normal. The condition of the standing crop is generally fair.

[October 29]

(*Continued from page* 3)

show that the total number of posts, in the Indian Civil Service was 121, involving an expenditure of Rs. 24·33 lakhs. The strength of other All-India Services in the Province, excluding I.C.S. High Court Judges, was 175 and the cost thereof amounted to Rs. 24·40 lakhs. The total number of pensioners under the Indian Civil Service and the other All-India Services was 94 and 233, respectively, and the pensionary liabilities under this head amounted to Rs. 26·68 lakhs.

The total strength of the Provincial Services was 2,710 and the cost involved was Rs. 130·39 lakhs. The strength of the Subordinate, Ministerial and Inferior Services was 142,417 involving a cost of Rs. 712·56 lakhs. Pensioners under the former category numbered 1,051 and under the latter 30,106. The total pensionary liability to the Government under this head was Rs. 120·30 lakhs.

The strength of the village establishment was 107,941 and the cost thereof Rs. 155·07 lakhs.

The total cost to the Government on account of salaries and pensions of the various grades of public servants in 1946–47 amounted to Rs. 1,196·42 lakhs.

[October 1]

Miscellaneous

Modification of Loan Rules

It has been pointed out that sanction of the loans applied for by cultivators under the Madras Land Improvement Loans Act and Agriculturists' Loans Act takes a considerable time. It is obviously necessary to minimise delay in such matters and the Government have, therefore, approved amendments to the Loan Manual in order that unnecessary delay may be eliminated.

In future the maximum period for the disposal of a loan application will be two months. When the total number of pending applications reaches 30 in a taluk, the Collector is at liberty to appoint a full-time Special Revenue Inspector for the work. Where encumbrance certificates are necessary the Registration department has been asked to see that such certificates are issued expeditiously. The period allowed for filing objections by

landholders to the grant of loans to ryots in proprietary areas has been reduced to 10 days as a temporary measure.

The operation of these innovations will be watched and the position reconsidered a year hence.

[November 4]

Anti-Malarial Requirements of Plantation Labour

In a press release, dated 3rd March 1947, the Government outlined the procedure with regard to the supply of anti-malarial requirements (quinine products and substitutes) of the employers of plantation labour in South India outside Travancore. The procedure required that the Secretary of the United Planters' Association of South India should furnish the Superintendent of Central Jail, Coimbatore, particulars regarding the quantities to be supplied to the planters during each half-year—January to June and July to December. He was also required to inform the planters individually the quantities allotted to them. The Superintendent, Central Jail, had thereupon to make the actual supply expeditiously.

The Government have since reconsidered this procedure and have ordered that the role of the Secretary of the United Planters' Association as the medium of communication between the Superintendent, Coimbatore Central Jail, and the planters should be confined to the cases of only those planters who are members of the association. As regards other planters who are not members of the Association and those who belong to Mysore, Cochin and Coorg, the District Medical Officers concerned or other Medical Officers having a similar status will have to furnish every half-year to the Superintendent, Central Jail, Coimbatore, the necessary particulars with concurrent intimation to the planters concerned. The Superintendent of the Central Jail will then make the supply. Indents for additional supplies will be referred before compliance to the Secretary of the United Planter's Association or the District Medical Officers or other Medical Officers, as the case may be.

These instructions will take effect from 1st January 1948.

[October 21]

Licence for pawnbrokers

Many pawnbrokers, especially in urban areas, were suspected of receiving stolen property and there was a marked reluctance on their part to reveal the sources from which property was received by them. The account books of some pawnbrokers were written in a script not current in this Province, and this added considerably to the difficulty of preventing them from making an illegitimate use of their position. The Government, therefore, considered it necessary to enact a measure requiring pawnbrokers to take out licences and subjecting their operations to a due measure of control on the lines of the English Pawnbrokers Act, 1872. For this purpose a Bill was published for criticism. After carefully considering the objections and suggestions received, His Excellency the Governor of Madras enacted the Madras Pawnbrokers Act, 1943.

Under section 1 (3) of the Act the Provincial Government may, from time to time, by notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette,* apply the provisions of the Act to the whole or any portion of the Province of Madras. The provisions of the Act were first extended to the Madras City and the Saidapet taluk of the Chingleput district with effect from 1st November 1944, and subsequently applied to the South Kanara district also. It has since been brought to the notice of the Government that, in view of the existence of many pawnbrokers in the other districts and the exorbitant rates of interest they are charging, it is desirable to extend the provisions of the Act to the rest of the Province. The Government have therefore published a notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette,* dated 5th August 1947, applying the provisions of the Act to the rest of the Province.

[October 31]

Bogus cloth ration cards

It has come to the notice of the Government that in Madras City several bogus cloth ration cards have been acquired by unscrupulous persons and are made use of to purchase cloth unauthorizedly. Instructions are being issued to the officers concerned to be vigilant and to make an intensive check of cloth ration cards and the accounts of a few selected dealers in all important areas in Cthe ity during their inspections, and to take suitable action against persons, whether consumers or dealers, making use of such bogus cloth ration cards. The attention of all concerned is drawn to the fact that the use of bogus cloth ration cards offends against the best interests of the community and is punishable under the Penal Code.

[October 31]

Coarse cloth exempted

It has been brought to the notice of Government that retail dealers in mill cloth in Madras City are having large quantities of cloth of different descriptions lying unsold with them for fairly long periods. With a view to enable the dealers to clear their stocks within a reasonably short time, the Government have decided that, in Madras City only, all coarse and medium varieties of cloth (stamped by manufacturers as such)—other than cloth manufactured by Mettur Mills should be excluded from the Rationing Scheme with effect from the 1st November 1947 till 31st December 1947 or till any earlier date (which) as may be announced by the Provincial Textile Commissioner.

[October 30]

Bogus yarn ration cards

It has come to the notice of Government that yarn rations are being drawn in all districts in respect of many handlooms which do not exist or are not active. The supply position of yarn has been very unsatisfactory in the Province and in consequence genuine weavers do not get sufficient yarn to keep them busy for even ten days in a month. The drawal of yarn rations for spurious looms has resulted in reducing still further the scanty supplies available for distribution to genuine weavers. The Government have considered the question of taking action against the offenders and have decided that the following procedure should be followed in dealing with them.

2. Whenever a bogus handloom is detected not only the yarn card issued in respect of the bogus loom, but all yarn ration cards belonging to the master weaver or independent weaver concerned will be cancelled. They will also be prosecuted under sections 182 and 415, Indian Penal Code, if there is *prima facie* evidence to show that they drew yarn rations for the bogus loom.

[October 29]

Groundnut Oil Cake

The Government have received a number of representations from sugarcane growers asking for the supply of groundnut oil cake for manuring sugarcane crops. But, in view of the very limited supplies of this cake, the Government have decided not to supply any groundnut cake to manure sugarcane crops. Sugarcane growers can purchase other kinds of cake like castor. They can also use sulphate of ammonia.

[November 4]

Area under groundnut

The average area under groundnut in the Madras Province during the five years ending 1944–45 represents 41·5 per cent of the total area under groundnut in India. The area sown with groundnut up to 25th September 1947 is estimated at 3,087,200 acres. When compared with the area of 3,120,000 acres estimated for the corresponding period of the previous year it reveals a decrease of 1·1 per cent. The summer crop of groundnut has been harvested. The yield per acre was normal in Cuddapah and Nellore and below normal in the other districts of the Province. The yield of the earlier crop was normal in Coimbatore and below the normal in Salem. The condition of the main crop is reported to be generally satisfactory except in parts of Vizagapatam, Kistna, Bellary, Anantapur and Cuddapah, where the crop was affected to some extent by plant lice and other insect pests and in parts of South Arcot and Trichinopoly due to want of timely rains. The yield per acre is expected to be normal in East Godavari and West Godavari, Guntur, Nellore, Chittoor, Chingleput, North Arcot, Salem, Ramnad and Malabar and below the normal in the other districts of the Province.

[October 29]

Export of unshelled groundnuts

The Government have issued a notification prohibiting the export outside Madras Province of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel except under a permit issued by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies or any other officer specially authorized by him in that behalf. The order says that no person shall, with effect on and from the date of publication thereof, transport unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel from any place in the Province of Madras to any place in India outside the province except under and in accordance with the terms and conditions of the permit issued by the Civil Supplies Commissioner, Madras, or any other officer specially authorized by the Commissioner. Nothing contained in this order shall, however, apply to the transport of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel from the Province of Madras to the States of Pudukottah, Banganapalle and Sandur and to the movement of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel against a valid export licence for export out of India issued by the Ministry of Commerce, Government of India. Contravention of the provisions of the order will involve forfeiture of the stocks of unshelled groundnuts and groundnut kernel concerned with the containers and coverings thereof in addition to any other punishment, to which the person contravening it may be liable and which the Court may impose.

[October 30]

Voluntary Surrender of Bogus Ration Cards

It has been repeatedly brought to the notice of the Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, that being afraid of prosecution, people are not coming forward to make any reduction on their cards for persons who are not existing, either dead or left the area, and that if an assurance is given by the Government that no prosecution will be launched if the reductions are applied within a prescribed time, there might be appreciable reductions. The Commissioner of Civil Supplies, Madras, therefore assures that no action will be taken against those who by the 30th November 1947, voluntarily surrender bogus ration cards which are with them, or apply for reduction on their cards for the persons who are either dead, do not exist or have left the rationed area. Serious notice will however be taken on cases of any violation detected after the 1st December 1947.

[November 4]

Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation Act, 1939

The Administration Report on the working of the Madras Sales of Motor Spirit Taxation for 1946–47 shows that no legal or administrative difficulties were experienced in administering the Act or the rules thereunder. The Act worked smoothly and satisfactorily during the period. The rates of taxes under this Act were enhanced with effect from 1st February 1947, to four annas per gallon in the case of petrol, and one anna six pies per gallon in the case of motor spirit other than petrol. The enhancement has not in any way affected the sales of petrol and motor spirit other than petrol for agricultural and industrial purposes.

2. The number of registered importers, wholesale dealers and retail dealers at the end of the year was 167, 160 and 1,003 respectively. The total demand for the year including some arrear balances was Rs. 34,90,905, of which a sum of Rs. 34,90,146 was collected leaving a balance of Rs. 659 which is only ·018 per cent of the demand. A sum of Rs. 563 was collected under "Miscellaneous Revenue" (fines, penalties, the compounding fees). The consumption of petrol was 31,552,448 gallons, and of motor spirit other than petrol was 9,589,797 gallons.

3. There was no offence under the Act or the rules in which punishment was awarded by a Magistrate. But 31 offences were compounded departmentally during the year. The offences were minor ones. In six cases, the dealers were warned.

4. Due to restricted supply of petrol for civilian use, many buses and lorries were continuing to run on charcoal gas. There was no evasion of tax on the part of the dealers by direct imports from the Indian States or other Provinces.

[November 7]

Labour Dispute in Cement Works

A dispute arose between the workers and management of the Coimbatore Cement Works, Madukkarai, on the question of payment of wages for the period of lock-out of the Cement Factory from 5th January 1947 to 14th February 1947. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement the question was referred to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication. After the enquiry the Tribunal has submitted its award. The Tribunal says that the management took no steps whatever to implement the award passed by the Adjudicator in September 1946 relating to the abolition of the system of contract labour, that the factory workers were responsible for the strike of the quarry workers and therefore the unemployment of the factory workers during the period of lock-out was voluntary, that the management was not justified in closing the factory and that both the workers and management must share the responsibility for the unemployment. The Tribunal therefore recommends that the management should pay the workers compensation for the period of closure from 5th January 1947 to 13th February 1947 both days inclusive but excepting holidays without pay, at the rate of fifty per cent of the average daily earnings inclusive of dearness allowance paid to the workers in December 1946. Only the workers who were on the muster roll of the company on 4th

January 1947 and rejoined duty within one week of the reopening of the factory will be eligible for compensation. The compensation must be paid within one week after the publication of the award.

[November 2]

Labour in Rice and Oil Mills

In March 1947, the Government appointed Sri U. Ramappa, Retired Judge of the City Civil Court, Madras, as a Court of Enquiry to go into the problems connected with the working conditions of labour in rice and oil mills of the Province. After enquiry the Court has submitted its report. The recommendations of the Court are—

(1) The minimum wage for a female worker should be eight annas and for a male worker twelve annas.

(2) There is no necessity for a separate dearness allowance.

(3) It is not possible to absorb the daily paid workers into monthly paid workers. It is not desirable to have permanent workers except the persons in charge of machinery and building.

(4) Rice mills which are seasonal factories can be converted into non-seasonal factories by having subsidiary industries.

(5) The system of piecework and contract work may be allowed.

(6) No bonus need be paid. The workers are already granted leave. It is not possible to ask the employers to render medical aid to the labourers. There is no housing problem for the workers in rice and oil mills. The grant of dress or dress allowance is not recommended.

(7) Rice and oil mills should be located in villages where raw products are produced. Co-operative societies of village or panchayat boards may be owners of rice and oil mills.

(8) There must be a wage board consisting of representatives of the workers, the producers of raw products and the owners of the mills to fix wages for labourers, and the rates of charges for rice milling and oil extraction.

[November 3]

Threatened strike of Scavengers

In connection with the threatened strike of the scavengers and conservancy menials of Aruppukottai Panchayat Board, Ramnad district, from 15th November 1947, the Government have examined their demands and find that the threatened strike is unjustified and they have, therefore, decided to take action under section 8 of the Madras Maintenance of Public Order Act, 1947. The Executive Officer of Aruppukottai Panchayat Board has been asked to bring the Government's decision to the notice of the workers' association.

[November 8]

Use of Aluminium Vessels

Vessels for cooking and storing food form an essential equipment in household but people are apt to forget what an important role they play in the preservation of their health.

Vessels made of aluminium are extensively used in this Province for cooking and storing prepared food. Their popularity is probably due to their silvery lustre, lightness and comparative cheapness. Recent experiments carried out in India and other countries have shown that certain foods where especially tamarind and salt are used (for instance sambhar, rasam, etc.) act on aluminium and dissolve it in appreciable amounts. Though the available evidence is that aluminium in the amounts it is likely to be consumed as a result of using aluminium vessels, may not have any harmful effect on all consumers, yet it is advisable that the use of these vessels is minimised as far as possible.

A special word of caution is also necessary against the use for cooking and storing food of vessels made of aluminium scrap metals dismantled from aeroplanes and other war-discarded machinery. From the latest information available from the United Kingdom, it has been found that there is considerable injury to health attendant on the use of these vessels. Aluminium aeroscrap may contain certain alloying elements like nickel, copper, and iron in excess of specified safe amounts and also lead. The uncertainty of the amounts of these elements in various components of aircrafts alloys renders the use of aeroscrap considerably harmful to human health.

It is a duty cast on the manufacturers of aluminium vessels that they select for their ware only sound material. The public have a right to demand from the traders a guarantee about the genuineness of the articles they purchase.

[November 6]

Indian Women's Civic Corps

The public are aware of the organization known as the Indian Women's Civic Corps which is a voluntary body, with a nucleus of official staff, working for the civic, social, cultural and economic uplift of women in this Province. This started originally in 1941 as the Women's A.R.P. Corps, with the object of having a large number of trained workers who could effectively inculcate in women and children, measures of self protection in the event of air raids. When the war ended and A.R.P. measures were abolished the Government felt that the wide contacts which the Women's A.R.P. Corps had built up with the women and children of the Province should be maintained and that the corps, with a suitable change of name, could be utilized for constructive welfare work among women and children. Hence, the corps was retained as the I.W.C.C. with branches throughout the Province. The Government feel that a great many branches are not getting proper local support without which it is difficult for them to progress or for the numerous workers of the corps to build up the organization on the soundest possible lines, however hard they might work. They consider, therefore, that it would be of immense benefit to the organization as well as to the general public if the objects and scope of the organization in the field of social service for women are clarified fully.

The general aims of the Indian Women's Civic Corps are to educate women for home and community life, to raise their general standard of living and thinking, to promote unity and understanding amongst them by developing civic consciousness and to instil in them a spirit of friendliness and service.

The day-to-day working of the I.W.C.C. is under the Commandant, an official, but general control of its activities is vested in a Provincial Executive Committee of which Her Excellency Lady Nye is the President, with the following as members :—

(1) Mrs. M. N. Clubwala, (2) Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Reddy, (3) Sister R. S. Subbulakshmi and (4) Begum Sultan Mir Amiruddin—*Vice-Presidents.*

(5) Dr. (Mrs.) Soundaram Ramachandran—*Chairman.*

(6) Sister Sita Devi, (7) Mrs. Savithri Rajan and (8) Mrs. Bhuvaneswari—*Members of the Committee.*

There are 29 branches of the organization throughout the Province, with altogether 220 centres. About 8,000 women are attending these centres at present. These branches are directed as well as assisted by a band of nearly 900 voluntary workers drawn from all classes and communities with experience in general or specialised forms of social service, including many professional men and women actuated by a spirit of social service. There is a nucleus of specially trained paid staff in each branch.

The main work of the Corps is to organize women into corporate groups under trained leadership, building up a general background of well informed outlook and a desire for improvement through self-effort both on the part of the individual and of the group. Useful arts and crafts such as Needle Work, First Aid, Sanitation, Hygiene, Domestic Science, Cooking, Gardening, Simple Cottage Industries, Fire Fighting, etc., are taught. There are weekly classes and monthly meetings of the branches where women meet without any difference of race, class, caste, or creed. Slum work is being carried on in the City of Madras. Of late, the I.W.C.C. has taken up special activities such as propaganda to popularise and teach the correct use of wheat, cholam, maize, dehydrated and other unfamiliar food-stuffs; assistance in Prohibition work and encouraging the housewife in the ways of thrift through practical instruction. Training in Basic education is also given. The organization publishes a journal in English and the languages of the Province, which contains matter of interest relating to its activities and women's welfare.

The Government have under consideration the expansion of the scope of the organization by transforming it into a Department of Social Welfare among women and children. Besides the opening of additional branches, it is proposed that the organization should take up new channels of social service such as rescue work, running of Service Homes for destitute women and children and Training Institutes for imparting general and vocational training to the inmates of the Homes.

It is considered that the existing machinery available in the Indian Women's Civic Corps with all its resources, experience and trained personnel can without great difficulty and expense take over the additional functions outlined above and achieve the desired object. It is expected that this new department will be able to undertake the additional work from the beginning of the next financial year, i.e., in the year 1948–49. The Government earnestly appeal to the public in general and women in particular to give their fullest support and co-operation to the new department and enable it to render devoted service to the women and children of the Province.

[November 6]

Handloom Cloth Wage Control

The Provincial Textile Commissioner has issued the following statement:—

Criticisms from some individuals and associations have appeared in the press that the Hon'ble Minister for Industries has excluded his own district, Bellary, from Handloom Cloth Wage Control. These statements have been made without a proper appreciation of the circumstances under which the Madras (Bellary District) Handloom Cloth (Control) Order, 1947, was issued. Bellary District continues to be in the same position as any other district, as explained below.

2. With a view to bring down the prices of handloom cloth, Government promulgated the Madras Handloom Cloth (Price Control) Order, 1946, in August 1946 under which the margins of profit of producers and dealers were specified without interfering with the weaving wages. But the absence of a provision for the control of wages in this Order was taken advantage of by the producers and dealers to manipulate prices and raise them even above the old levels. This compelled the Government to promulgate the new Handloom Cloth Control Order, 1947.

3. The main provisions of the new Control Order of 1947 are—

(1) Fixation and notification of maximum weaving wages by the Government;

(2) Appointment of stamping inspectors to stamp the retail prices on handloom cloth produced in the Province; and

(3) Formation of local wages Board and fixation of the maximum wages for each local area.

After the above preliminaries are completed, the Collectors should issue a Notification under clause 2 (1) bringing into operation clauses 18 to 23 of the Order regarding stamping. Pending the issue of such a Notification, the provisions of the Madras Handloom Cloth (Price Control) Order, 1946, continues to be applicable in the Province.

4. The Collector of Bellary inadvertently issued a Notification under clause 2 (1) of the Madras Handloom Cloth Control Order, 1947, on 7th May 1947 bringing into operation clauses 18 to 23 thereof in his district before the Government had notified the maximum wages. The effect of this was that from 7th May 1947, the 1946 Control Order ceased to apply in Bellary district and the 1947 Control Order came into force. Thus no cloth produced in that district after that date could be sold unless the prices were stamped on the cloth, but in the absence of fixation of the cost of weaving under clauses 18 and 21 (2) of the latter Order, the stamping inspectors could not proceed about their work and the provisions of that Order could not be enforced. A special Control Order for Bellary embodying the provisons of the 1946 Price Control Order had therefore to be promulgated to restore the 'Status quo.

5. It may be seen that the Madras (Bellary District) Handloom Cloth (Price Control) Order, 1947, contains the main provisions of the Madras Handloom Cloth (Price Control) Order, 1946. The Bellary District has not been exempted from the proposed wage control for weaving handloom cloth. All the provisions of the Madras Handloom Cloth Control Order, 1947, except clauses 18 to 23 thereof are in force in that district as is the case in respect of other districts.

6. The Government have since notified the maximum weaving wages under clause 17 (1) of the Madras Handloom Cloth Control Order, 1947. The formation of local wages Boards and the appointment of Stamping Inspectors are under the consideration of the Government. As soon as a final decision is taken, the Bellary District Control Order will have to be repealed and the whole of the Madras Handloom Cloth Control Order, 1947, will be applied to that district.

Industrial Disputes Settled

An industrial dispute arose between the workers and the management of the Madras Pencil Factory. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred to Sri P. C. Sundaram Ayyangar, retired District and Sessions Judge, as Industrial Tribunal, for adjudication. After the enquiry, the Tribunal has submitted its report and made the following recommendations :—

The bonus awarded by the Arbitrator in October 1946 should be calculated on the wages as increased from 1st September 1946, and the balance still due shall be paid before the end of October 1947. Contributions to the provident fund should be made from the wages due for January 1947 onwards. The workers should pay their back contributions within a month from the date of the orders of Government on this award. Such of the workers who fail to do so will have the benefit only from the month of the orders of Government. Workers reinstated after 1st October 1947 should pay their contributions within a month of their reinstatement. Aprons, gloves and glasses will be provided by the management to those workers who need them before the end of October 1947. The stoppage of pay for half day's strike on 23rd January 1947 and the strike on 6th February 1947 should be only for one and half days. Both the management and the workers have agreed that work on Saturdays should be only for half a day but if the return on the capital invested falls below nine per cent per annum the management may insist on forty eight hours week. The holidays for festivals in a year will be twenty-one as before.

The dismissed workers who have not yet been reinstated should be reinstated before 31st December 1947. They will be paid full wages for eight days in February 1947 up to and inclusive of the 9th February, and one-third of the basic pay and dearness allowance from the 10th February to the date of reinstatement in the case of the 31 workers already reinstated and up to the 15th October 1947 in the case of the other workers. Those who are not reinstated by the 15th October 1947 will receive full pay and dearness allowance. The terms of employment for the re-employed workers will not be varied. The withdrawal of recognition of the union by the management was improper and the union should be recognized.

* * *

There was a dispute between the boatmen and owners of boats at Cuddalore. As the parties to the dispute were unable to arrive at an amicable settlement, the dispute was referred for adjudication to the District and Sessions Judge, South Arcot, as Industrial Tribunal. After enquiry, the Tribunal has submitted its report with the following recommendations :—

1. (*a*) Ordinary rates of hire should be paid for trips commenced after sunrise at the port, provided the return journey from the steamer also commences before sunset.

(*b*) The time of sunrise and sunset noted from the Madras daily newspapers, should be prominently displayed in the Port Office, preferably by chalking on a blackboard, each day.

(*c*) For calculating ordinary rates in the above manner, the time of leaving the steamer can be exceeded by a margin up to half an hour, in the case of not more than five per cent of the total number of lighters of all the boatowners, operating on a given day.

(*d*) The extraordinary changes prescribed in G.O. No. 100, Revenue (Special) (Marine), dated 8th March 1920, as revised will be payable for journeys between sunset and 4 a.m., between 4 a.m and sunrise, and on occasions of inclement weather.

(*e*) The boatmen cannot refuse to undertake a journey out of the ordinary rate schedule hours, when exigencies require speedy unloading of cargo. For work outside the ordinary schedule hours, they are entitled to the extraordinary schedule of rates of hire. If they refuse to work for reasons which appear unreasonable to the Port authority, they are liable to be penalized, under such rules as may be in force.

2. The present system of calculating hire for transport of coal appears to be the most practicable under the circumstances, and cannot be considered inequitable. It requires no modification.

Conditions of Labour in Timber and Saw Mills in Malabar and South Kanara

In May 1947, the Government appointed Sri Rao Sahib K. A. Mukundan, retired Deputy Collector, as a Court of Enquiry to enquire into the conditions of labour in the timber and saw mills in Malabar and South Kanara districts. After enquiry, the court has submitted its report. The following are the recommendations of the Court :—

(1) *Workers employed by contractors or moopans.*—The names of the workers who are not recruited temporarily by the contractors or moopans, should be brought on to an attendance register or wage roll to be maintained by the mills and the management should see that they are properly paid. These workers should get all the privileges that the other workers get such as dearness allowance, output-bonus, annual bonus, holidays with pay and benefits under the Workmen's Compensation Act and the Madras Maternity Benefit Act.

(2) *Basic Minimum wage.*—The minimum basic wage of the workers in the mills in Malabar district should be 12 annas for adult and experienced workers, ten annas to new recruits for the first six months and to women. The basic minimum wage of the workers in the mill at Kalyanpur should be ten annas for male workers and eight annas for women workers. No increase is necessary in respect of the workers in the Mill at Mangalore. The minimum wage of the workers in the mill at Kasargod, should be one rupee with a dearness allowance of 50 per cent of the basic wage. The employers should ordinarily give all the workers who turn up for work six days' work every week.

(3) *Dearness allowance.*—The dearness allowance to the workers in the Mills in Malabar should be cent per

cent of the basic wages and this should be reduced as the cost of living index decreases. In the case of workers engaged by the moopans and contractors, the dearness allowance should be 50 per cent of the basic wage and twenty-five per cent of the basic wage in the case of the mill at Kalyanpur. In the case of mills at Mangalore and Kasaragod, the dearness allowance should be 50 per cent of the basic wage.

(4) *Overtime allowance.*—For every hour worked beyond the normal period of eight hours not less than one and a half times the proportionate day's wage per hour plus dearness allowance should be paid.

(5) *Production or output bonus.*—The payment of production or output bonus should be compulsory in all the mills in Malabar at a uniform rate of eight annas per kandy of the total number of kandies of timber worked. This payment should not be made to depend on attendance.

(6) *Annual bonus.*—The workers should be paid bonus equivalant to 25 per cent of their total basic earnings including dearness allowance. Workers absent for more than 60 days in the year excluding leave and holidays will not be eligible for bonus; but it will not depend on good conduct, production, etc.

(7) *Permanency.*—Workers who have put in more than six months' service in a mill and have thus satisfactorily undergone their probation or apprenticeship should be treated as permanent

(8) *Hol days with pay.*—Two festival holidays should be allowed to the workers in every year. Absence without leave up to a period of seven days in a year should be treated as leave without pay and should not entail dismissal or discharge or forfeiture of past service.

(9) *Medical aid.*—A fully equipped first-aid kit should be maintained in every mill and at least two or three persons should be well trained in rendering first-aid. It is desirable to open a dispensary at Baliapatam with contribution from mill owners. If a worker is injured while on duty and the case is not covered by the Workmen's Compensation Act, he should be paid full wages and dearness allowance so long as he is unfit even for light work in the mill, in addition to the hospital and other charges incurred, whether he is sent to the hospital for treatment or not. The period of absence should not be excluded in calculating the total period of duty for purposes of payment of bonus.

(10) *Provident Fund.*—All mills of more than five years' standing should institute Provident Fund Schemes, the rules of which should be approved by the Commissioner of Labour.

(11) *Discharge of workers.*—In case of temporary closure of mills, at least a week's previous notice should be given to the workers. Mill should not be closed temporarily as a punitive measure.

(12) *Monthly paid clerical, technical and other non-labour staff.*—The basic minimum salary should be Rs. 30 per mensem and the minimum dearness allowance should be Rs. 12-8-0 per mensem but the existing total emoluments should not be reduced. After one year's service, the staff should be eligible for leave of at least 28 days. The staff should be eligible for the benefits of Provident Fund.

The Government are in general agreement with the recommendations of the court and commend them to the workers and managements of the several factories concerned.

Town-Planning Committee Constituted

To examine the problem of town-planning in Madras Province and the legislation necessary to make the Town-Planning Act more comprehensive and effective during the post-war years in the light of the recommendations of the Bhore Committee on Town-Planning and Housing, the Government have constituted a special Committee consisting of the following :—

Sri K. R. Karanth, M.L.A. (*Chairman*);

The Inspector of Municipal Councils and Local Boards (*Ex-officio Director of Town-Planning*);

The Commissioner of Labour;

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies;

The Commissioner, Corporation of Madras;

Sri V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar, M.L.A.;

Sri P. Ratnavelu Thevar, M.L.A.;

Sri R. Suryanarayana Rao, M.L.C.;

Janab Abdul Hameed Khan Sahib Bahadur, M.L.A.;

Sri V. K. Thiruvenkatachari, Advocate, Madras;

Sri M. B. Chablani, Chairman, Madras City Improvement Trust; and

Sri Rao Sahib K. K. Nambiar, Engineer, Corporation of Madras.

The Joint Director of Town-Planning will be the Secretary of the Committee.

The Committee is requested to consider the following matters and submit a report to Government as early as possible :—

(1) Amendment of the Madras Town-Planning Act, 1920, with a view to ensuring expeditious execution of all town-planning schemes.

(2) Methods of rationalizing the levy of the "Betterment Contribution."

(3) Measures for effectuating these objects in relation to all sanctioned schemes and those pending preparation and sanction.

(4) Measures for organizing the technical departmental services so as to ensure prompt and efficient despatch of work consistent with economy, with special reference to the necessity or otherwise of reorganizing the existing town-planning departments, both under the Government and under municipal councils; the methods of obtaining the staff necessary (training and qualifications); and as to how schemes drawn up under the Act should be financed.

(5) To draft, if considered necessary, a comprehensive Bill on a consideration of the recommendations of the Public Health Sub-Committee and of the Bhore Committee and other suggestions.

The headquarters of the Committee will be in Madras.

It may be stated here that the Health Survey and Development Committee have commented on the poor results achieved in the field of town-planning in the Province of Madras in spite of the existence on the statute book of the Madras Town Planning Act, 1920. The main reasons, among others, for this absence of outstanding achievement in town-planning are stated to be the unsatisfactory finances of the local authorities and lack of trained technical personnel. The conditions created by the last war aggravated these difficulties. The question as to what measures should be taken to enforce the provisions of the Town-Planning Act more effectively

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Review of Prohibition Work

The following report on the working of the Madras Prohibition Act, in the districts of Anantapur, Bellary, Kurnool, Cuddapah, Salem, Coimbatore, Chittoor and North Arcot, during August 1947, is published for information.

Enforcement

Cases detected.—The total number of cases detected in the eight districts during the month was 2,252, as against 2,256 in July, 2,192 in June, 2,132 in May and 2,059 in April.

The total number of illicit distillation cases, which also showed a decrease, was 958 as against 1,015 in July. There was a marked decrease in the district of Salem from 270 to 202 and in the district of Chittoor from 146 to 79. The number in Anantapur district, however, increased from 34 to 94 and the number in Cuddapah district from 191 to 232. The fall in Salem district is attributed to the vigilance of the special staff in putting down illicit distillation while that in Chittoor is attributed to the decrease in crime. The increase in Anantapur and Cuddapah districts was due to the special steps taken by the enforcement staff in conducting several large scale raids.

The number of cases of smuggling of liquor decreased from 80 to 64. The number of cases relating to the smuggling of intoxicating drugs also decreased from 169 to 138.

Border problems.—Border patrols continued to be active. A large number of addicts in prohibition districts continue to visit border shops for drink.

Assistance by officials of other departments and by non-officials.—The police in the Ceded districts have, as usual, given very satisfactory co-operation in the detection of crime. Their work in Kurnool district deserves special mention. The work done by village officers in Salem and North Arcot districts was good. No cases were detected in Coimbatore district by the village officers themselves or as a result of information furnished by them. There was a decided improvement in the work done by the Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in Cuddapah district. No cases were detected by or at the instance of the members of the Taluk and Village Prohibition Committees in Bellary, Kurnool, Coimbatore and Chittoor districts.

General remarks.—The preventive work during the month was, on the whole, satisfactory.

Ameliorative Work

Substitutes for drink.—There was a further increase in the number of coffee and tea stalls in all the prohibition districts and it is reported that all these stalls were popular especially among ex-addicts.

Rural recreation.—The 59 Rural Recreation Officers who were working during the month visited 756 villages and organized rural games in 584 of them. Thirty-five firka tournaments and two taluk tournaments were held during the month.

Bhajanas, Harikathas and Kalakshepams.—Bhajanas, harikathas or kalakshepams were held in 1,019 villages during the month. There were also folk dances, dramas or cinema shows in 363 villages during the month.

Organizing community singing.—The ballad singers visited 374 villages during the month and organized community singing in 143 villages. They also trained 973 villagers in community singing.

Rural uplift.—Six thousand nine hundred and thirty six Gramasangams, 190 Firka Associations and 46 Taluk Associations have been formed till the end of the month. The Gramasangams engaged themselves in various ameliorative measures like the purchase of medicine chests to distribute first-aid medicines free of cost to the villagers, opening of schools and libraries, distribution of slates, books, pencils, etc., to poor children and Harijan boys, construction of roads, purchase of stud bulls and sinking of new wells and repairing of old ones.

Rural uplift school.—One rural uplift school with 54 students was opened during the month in each of the districts of Coimbatore and North Arcot.

Promotion of thrift.—The amount saved in hundi boxes during the month was Rs. 13,469, making up a total of Rs. 1,13,048 till the end of August 1947. Thrift day celebrations were held in Chittoor, Anantapur, North Arcot, Salem and Kurnool districts. At Kasiralla in Chittoor district, Hon'ble Minister (Prohibition) distributed hundi boxes to the members of the Society and exhorted them to save more.

Co-operative Jaggery Manufacturing societies.—In the four districts of Salem, Coimbatore, Chittoor and North Arcot, jaggery of the value of Rs. 13·18 lakhs was produced till the end of August 1947.

Beneficial results of Prohibition.—The Collector of North Arcot has reported that in Wandiwash taluk, about 200 Harijans, all of whom were addicted to drink, have jointly purchased a plot of land for Rs. 1,000 for building houses and have taken up residence on the sites from 15th August 1947, the Independence Day, and have named the place "Gandhi Nagar."

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during the post-war years engaged the attention of the Public Health Sub-Committee of the Post-War Reconstruction General Committee, which, after considering the proposals of the Director of Public Health, drawn up in consultation with the Director of Town-Planning, came to the conclusion that legislation was necessary to make the Town-Planning Act more comprehensive and more effective. The Sub-Committee also suggested that the following items of work should be put down for the first five-year period :—

(*a*) Training of personnel and expansion of staff;

(*b*) Amendment of the Act in the manner referred to above ; and

(*c*) Execution of all sanctioned town-planning schemes.

The Committee now constituted will examine all the suggestions and make necessary recommendations.

Exempted varieties of Cloth

The Government understand that their recent decision to exclude certain unattractive and slow-selling varieties of cloth from the Rationing Scheme has not been fully appreciated and availed of by the trade, and that as a result, cloth of these descriptions is allowed to accumulate with dealers. The Government would repeat for the information of all concerned that retailers, holding coarse and medium varieties of unbleached or coloured cloth having a width of 40" and below and remaining unsold for over two months with them, may apply to the Collector of their district, giving the actual description of the cloth and the date of its arrival in their shops, for permission to sell it outside the rationing scheme and that, on obtaining his permission, they can sell it to their customers outside the ration. Dealers are advised to take full advantage of this concession.

Public Health Administration in 1946

The Administration Report of the Public Health Department relating to 1946 shows that in spite of difficult living conditions and acute food shortage the public health of the Province as a whole recorded considerable improvement and the Province was comparatively free from the epidemics of cholera and smallpox. It is significant that cholera mortality was the lowest on record within the past 65 years.

Vital statistics.—The Madras Registration of Births and Deaths Act continued to be in force throughout the Province, except in the Agency tracts and some backward and excluded areas. The birth rate increased from 29·45 in 1945 to 31·62 per thousand of estimated mid-year population, in 1946, reaching almost the pre-war level. There was a marked fall in the death rate from 22·27 in 1945 to 18·88 in 1946. The number of deaths recorded was lowest under every disease except under plague. The rate of infantile mortality fell from 169·44 in 1945 to 146·88 in 1946 and it was the lowest on record during the past 26 years. The maternal mortality rate also dropped from 9·29 in 1945 to 7 94 per thousand births in 1946.

Epidemics

Cholera.—The number of deaths from cholera fell sharply from 8,494 in 1945 to 753 in 1946. About two-thirds of the total cholera mortality occurred in the districts of Kistna, Nellore, Vizagapatam, Guntur and Trichinopoly.

Smallpox.—Smallpox took a lesser toll during the year, the number of deaths decreasing from 20,636 in 1945 to 7,923 in 1946. The mortality was high in Guntur, Malabar, Chittoor, Chingleput, Coimbatore, Nellore, West Godavari and North Arcot.

Plague.—Plague was acute during the year. The total number of deaths from plague increased from 1,644 in 1945 to 2,254 in 1946, Coimbatore accounting for 80 per cent of the total number of deaths. Besides the usual preventive measures of anti-plague inoculations and cyanogas fumigation, experimental studies were undertaken to determine the relative efficiency of D.D.T. as a pulicide as compared with cyanogas. The special scheme for the investigation and control of plague in the Nilgiri district was in progress during the year.

Other Diseases

Leprosy.—The Madras Provincial Branch of the British Empire Leprosy Association continued to be generally in charge of leprosy work in the Province. An *ad hoc* committee consisting of officials and non-officials was constituted to go into the question of leprosy control and to make recommendations for its improvement. A scheme for the training of Rural Medical Practitioners in Leprosy at the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium at Chingleput was sanctioned.

Tuberculosis.—During the year 85,854 cases were treated as against 86,407 in 1945.

Fevers.—The number of deaths from fevers decreased from 301,178 in 1945 to 248,663 in 1946.

Dysentery and diarrhœa.—The number of deaths on account of dysentery and diarrhœa decreased from 78,106 in 1945 to 62,621 in 1946.

Miscellaneous other causes accounted for 56 per cent of the total deaths during the year.

Research schemes.—Research schemes for the biological control of guineaworm disease were in progress in five districts and had been sanctioned for four more districts. Studies of different species of small indigenous fresh water fish to test their cyclopœcidal quality were carried out. Chemical treatment of water sources with lime to destroy cyclops was also tried side by side with the biological method.

Malaria control.—The reorganized Bureau of Malariology established in 1945 continued to function during the year. All the previous anti malarial schemes were in progress and new schemes for malaria control in Paderu near Gudivada and Nagur in the East Godavari Agency tract were sanctioned with a First-class Health Officer in charge of each. A separate First class Health Officer was also sanctioned to be in charge of anti-malarial measures in the Machkund Hydro-Electric Project and the Ramapadasagar Project. Quinine and quinine substitutes were freely distributed as usual by the health staff in all endemic areas. Experiments with the new anti-malaria drugs were also undertaken. D.D.T. was widely used for residual spraying of houses. Pyrethrum was also employed with effect in certain circumstances. Experiments were also conducted to determine the most effective and economic method of using D.D.T. in malaria control work.

Health propaganda.—As usual research education and propaganda formed part of the routine work of the health staff. Lectures, talks, cinema shows and exhibitions were arranged. Weekly broadcasts on the public health conditions in the Province were arranged. Environmental hygiene and soil sanitation also received attention.

Fairs and festivals.—Precautions were taken to safeguard public health during fairs and festivals. There was no epidemic during any of the festivals.

Maternity and child welfare.—Maternity and child welfare also received attention. Twenty-three new centres were opened during the year. A sum of Rs. 1,50,707 was sanctioned by Government as grants to local bodies for maternity and child welfare activities in 1945-46 as against Rs. 1,22,797 in 1944-45. There was a dearth of candidates for appointment as Women Medical Officers and Health Visitors.

Food adulteration.—The Madras Prevention of Adulteration Act was extended to 13 more panchayats during the year. Further extension of the Act was rendered difficult by the paucity of Laboratory facilities for the Government Analyst. The percentage of adulterated samples decreased slightly from 46·70 in 1945 to 46·0 in 1946.

Nutrition.—The establishment of a Bureau of Nutrition under an Assistant Director of Public Health with two Regional Units, one at Trichinopoly and the other at Anantapur, was sanctioned during the year. Detailed diet surveys were undertaken in about 450 families in various districts. They disclosed a general deficiency in the consumption of protective foods. Three Nutrition Exhibitions were organized during the year and 175 broadcast talks on various aspects of food and nutrition were given. Twenty-four food propagandists were trained in nutrition at the central laboratory. Studies of dietaries of institutions and examination of samples of foodstuffs to test their fitness for human consumption were also conducted in the laboratory.

Vaccination.—The total number of vaccinations done during the year was 8,584,105 as compared with 1,197,270 in 1945. The decrease is due to a smaller number of re-vaccinations as

(*Continued on page* 18)

Facts and Figures about Sanitation in 1945–46

According to the Annual Report of the Sanitary Engineer to the Government of Madras for the period from 1st January 1945 to 31st March 1946, the total number of municipal water-supply schemes in operation, including that in the City of Madras, continued to be 48. Excluding the City of Madras, there are 83 district municipalities in the Presidency with a population of 3,689,931 representing 7·403 per cent of the total population of the Province, who have the benefit of water-supply. If the City of Madras also is included, 9 per cent of the population of the Presidency has the benefit of municipal administration as regards water-supply. The population served with water-supply in the 47 district municipal towns is 2,555,943 representing 69·3 per cent of the municipal population excluding these in the City of Madras. If the City of Madras also is included, the total population served by protected water-supply scheme will be 3,333,424 representing 74·6 per cent of the total municipal population of the Province. The cost involved in the installation of these district municipal schemes is Rs. 270 lakhs in round figures, while the capital cost of the City water works up to the end of 1945 as per figures available at present is Rs. 162·2 lakhs.

As regards drainage, seven municipalities have had the benefit of drainage schemes, of which three are only partial, serving only a portion of the population of the towns concerned. The cost of the installation of these schemes is Rs. 63 lakhs, excluding the cost in respect of the City of Madras. The drainage schemes of the district municipalities serve 14 per cent of the municipal population. Inclusive of the City of Madras, the total population served by drainage schemes is 1,356,282 representing 30·7 per cent of the municipal population.

It has been estimated that to provide water-supply for the remaining 30·7 per cent of the population of the district municipalities, the approximate cost will be Rs. 396 lakhs at pre-war rates, inclusive of charges for improvements to the existing schemes. The estimated expenditure for providing drainage schemes to serve the 86 per cent of the municipal population, who do not benefit by them now is Rs. 665·96 lakhs, at pre-war rates. In this category, schemes costing Rs. 34·39 lakhs are however under execution. Thus for the major water-supply and drainage schemes for the municipal towns, a total expenditure of Rs. 1,061·96 lakhs approximately has to be incurred, including that on schemes that are under execution at present.

Twelve panchayats had been provided with protected water-supply schemes though in some cases the supply is only partial. The cost involved in the installation of these schemes is Rs. 9·64 lakhs.

Outturn during the period

Municipal Schemes

Water-supply.—Ten schemes of water-supply continued to be under execution by the Public Works Department at an estimated cost of Rs. 99·93 lakhs. The outlay of expenditure during the period under report was Rs. 5·85 lakhs and the total expenditure on these schemes at the close of the period was Rs. 69·44 lakhs. Seven schemes continued to be under execution by the Municipal Engineering staff under the supervision of the Public Works Department and these schemes are estimated to cost Rs. 7·75 lakhs. The total expenditure to the end of the period was Rs. 4·65 lakhs.

Drainage.—Five drainage schemes estimated to cost Rs. 28·94 lakhs continued to be under execution by the Public Works Department. The total expenditure during the year was Rs. 3·09 lakhs and the total expenditure to the end of March 1946 was Rs. 12·03 lakhs.

Design.—Good progress was made in the preparation of designs during the period. Detailed plans and estimates for water-supply at Trichinopoly, estimated to cost Rs. 1·20 lakh, were prepared. Plans and estimates for water-supply relating to the Tungabhadra Project were also prepared. Preparation of plans and estimates for six other schemes involving an approximate cost of Rs. 38·47 lakhs was underway during the period under report. Detailed plans and estimates for six drainage schemes were also prepared during the period while preparation of plans and estimates for Saidapet drainage and the sewerage scheme for Vizagapatam (swamp area) estimated to cost Rs. 17·92 lakhs was in progress.

Investigations.—Investigation of water-supply schemes for the three municipalities of Chittoor, Gudivada and Mangalore, estimated to cost Rs. 70 lakhs had been in progress during the period and in the case of one of them it was completed. Similarly, investigation in respect of three drainage schemes involving a cost of Rs. 8·10 lakhs were in progress during the period, excluding that relating to the Lady Willingdon Leper Sanatorium in Chingleput, involving a cost of Rs. 0·96 lakh. In some cases, investigations had been completed.

Panchayats

Water-supply.—Two schemes estimated to cost Rs. 2·80 lakhs were under execution by the Public Works Department. The expenditure during the year was Rs. 0·35 lakh and the total expenditure to the end of the year was Rs. 2·85 lakhs. In two cases, detailed plans and estimates for water-supply schemes were prepared during the year. The investigation of water-supply for Kollegal Panchayat, involving an expenditure of Rs. 5 83 lakhs was also completed.

Professional sanction for sanitary works.—During the period under report, plans and estimates for 30 works were scrutinised and technical sanction accorded for the same. Of these, 22 were for water-supply works estimated to cost Rs. 2·11 lakhs and 8 for drainage works estimated to cost Rs. 1·06 lakhs. In addition, proposals for water-supply and sanitary installations for educational institutions recived from the Director of Public Instruction were also scrutinied. The scrutiny of plans and estimates for rural water-supply schemes received from the Board of Revenue was also done during the year.

Miscellaneous

As against 47 municipalities possessing water works, 44 municipalities have got competent Municipal Engineers. By-laws relating to water works of municipalities continued to be examined and revised by the department during the period. There has been an improvement in the rate of water-supply for Madras. The consumption per head in 1945, as per figures available, was 30·7 gallons per day. Under the post-war development scheme, the revised programme for water-supply and drainage works is estimated to cost Rs. 25·6 crores at pre-war rates spread over a period of 20 years, with an expenditure limited to Rs. 3·71 crores during the first five years.

Progress of Broadcasting in Madras Province

The Administration Report relating to Provincial Broadcasting for 1945-46 shows that the radio, as an instrument of mass information and instruction, is becoming increasingly popular in the Province. The total number of rural radio receivers working on 31st March 1946 was 501 and the total number of sets installed in municipalities up to 31st March 1946 was 167. Besides these, 61 sets have been installed by the Madras City Police, the Malabar Special Police and under the public address system and 40 sets have been installed in private and Government institutions, thus making a total of 769 sets. The installation of the scheduled sets received from the Government of India could not be carried out during the period under report partly owing to the lack of batteries. The work, however, made better progress since the receipt of new batteries in June 1946.

Steps were taken during the period to popularize the use of radios by local bodies. In November 1945, the Government reduced the maintenance charges recoverable in respect of panchayat board sets from Rs. 120 to Rs. 90 per set, excluding the annual fee of Rs. 10 payable to the Postal and Telegraph Department. Subsequently in March 1946, this concessional rate was applied also to municipalities who installed the sets only in their schools, irrespective of the number of sets maintained. This step was meant as a gesture to education through the radio. It is also contemplated to install 8,000 additional community sets in several parts of the Province in connexion with educative publicity regarding the several ameliorative schemes of the Government.

Long-range improvement in broadcasting has also been envisaged by the Government and to that end they have permitted research students subject to a total limit of six at a time to do research and development work on provincial schemes in the Broadcasting Department. They have also sanctioned the institution of three scholarships each of the value of Rs. 50 per mensem for award to research students. Quarterly conferences are also held of the Radio Engineer, the Station Directors of All-India Radio, Madras and Trichinopoly, and the heads of Nation-Building Departments of the Government to discuss as to how best to utilise the services of the radio for nation-building purposes. These conferences have proved extremely useful. The Government have also appointed a Special Officer temporarily for a period of six months to advise them in regard to the steps to be taken for further development in Broadcasting, in this Province, adoption of suitable rural programmes, and other allied subjects.

For purposes of administration, the Province is divided into three circles each being in charge of an Assistant Radio Engineer with a Radio Engineer at the top. Preliminary enquiries have been made for a big drive in educational broadcasting in the Province and it is hoped that in the coming years almost every important College, Hostel and High School will have a community radio set.

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Village, Thy Name is India

Rural Development, Sure Foundation for a Stable Society

By Sri J. C. KUMARAPPA

Rural development may be roughly of three kinds. The villages may be looked upon as raw material producers for centralized industries. From this point of view the programme laid out will emphasize the needs of large mills and will convert villages into adjuncts of towns and cities where the mills are situated. The fields will grow, not food the villages require, but crops such as sugarcane ; long staple-cotton tobacco. The towns will be the parties to dictate what use should be made of the village lands. This scheme is worked out by controlling the money mechanism. When looked at from a broader view point, however much of material welfare this system may bring to the villages, it will be ruinous to the development of the villagers as human beings. It is, therefore, a plan that will ultimately bring out deterioration of the human race.

The second method of rural development is a compliment of this. While the first method caters to the mills in regard to the raw materials, the second method helps the mills in disposing of their finished goods. Here, we may say, that the villagers become the markets of manufactured articles from centralized industrial organizations. While the first method resorts to money as the instrument of effecting the necessary change in the rural economy, the second method relies on propaganda to create a demand which can be satisfied by mill-made articles. All such propaganda are generally half truths which carry the villagers off their feet. Under this scheme, the cities and towns may benefit, not only by getting the custom of the villages, but also, by drawing to themselves articles which would otherwise be consumed by the villages. For instance, villages may sell their milk and be satisfied with using tea. Ultimately, nutritively considered, such a change is in favour of the town. Again, villagers may be made to use city-made articles as against village products. Examples of these would be mill cloth as against Khadi, and white sugar as against gur. In all such cases also, the real interests of the villages are overlooked, while advancing the welfare of cities and towns.

The third method, which I presume the Government of Madras wishes to adopt in its firka development scheme, is to look upon the villager as an entity and his development as an end in itself. This means, that ultimately we have to scrap all considerations which will not be conducive to the growth of his personality. The rural development plan in this case will assume the nature of an all-round scheme for the villager to lead a comprehensive life. This scheme will afford the villager opportunities for exercising all his faculties while at the same time supplying all his bodily needs. If such a plan is pursued, the village life will truly become the foundation of the culture of the nation. We shall not be merely making the villager a victim to the monetary greed and the profit motive of the "haves."

The greatest need of the human being is his food, which feeds the body and provides the necessary favourable conditions for the development of the higher faculties of man. With this end in view, any scheme of rural development should begin with the organization of village life to provide the rural population with a sound balanced diet. The diet should be so calculated as to ensure good health and strength. The articles produced by a proper distribution of the available land would be re-distributed amongst the population to enable every inhabitant to obtain all his primary needs. Any surplus left over will, then be available for exchange with the surplus products of other units.

Besides the economic production, the villagers should be educated in the art of living, which means how to spend their time profitably so as to give themselves a chance for further development. At the present time, because of the terrible drain on the resources of the villages, the villager has more or less become beasts of burden, carrying the responsibility of feeding the towns and cities and, in return, using their manufactured articles. The interests of the villages are not considered to be the guiding factors in the layout of rural life.

With this idea in view, the scheme that is suggested to Government will aim at making a group of villages comprising a firka, self-sufficient, at least in food, clothing and shelter. For this purpose, the land that is available in the firka has to be scientifically examined as to the best use it can be put to. A preliminary survey will have to be made to give the planners an idea of the diet of the people, their physical condition and their needs. Keeping this in mind, a satisfactory table of balanced diet should be drawn up allowing for the quantity needed for the firka. In addition to this, provision will also be made for growing enough cotton to enable the people to clothe themselves. These will be given priority over all other uses the land can be put to. After this, if there be any surplus lands, the crops that are needed by the adjoining firkas, which can grow articles in short-supply here, should be cultivated and the products exchanged with the neighbours.

To distribute the production of the firka amongst the inhabitants and to handle the goods, a multi-purpose co-operative society should be organized. This co-operative society will take in from the villages such products as are in excess of the needs of the producers themselves. It will grade the articles and will arrange to store in satisfactory godowns the goods until they are required by the consumers. If there be any surplus in this firka, it will be such a co-operative society that will arrange to exchange such surplus with other co-operative societies which may have articles needed by this firka in excess.

In addition to this function, the co-operative society should help the villager in planning his work. It may have to have a propaganda department which will create public opinion needed for carrying out a planned economy. It will stand between the Government and the people, and it should be governed, when fully organized, by elected members of the people.

When such a co-operative society is in full working order, it ought to be able to control and organize all large-range programme, such as the building of roads, and planning of irrigation, and control of forests within the firka jurisdiction.

Apart from this economic side of the rural development, equally important items will require our attention. We have to arrange for the health of the people and sanitation of the villages. As a complement to this, we would have the disposal of refuse which can be converted into valuable manure for

the land and also will prevent the spread of diseases.

Culturally, the people will have to have satisfactory outlets for their own expression. This will be provided for by organizing festivities and fairs at which local talent will have ample scope and free play.

It is generally agreed that if our villagers are languishing to-day, it is because their education has been long neglected. Hence, it becomes incumbent on us to provide an adequate system of education for, not only this generation, but also for the future generation. This education should not content itself with purely giving the learner a knowledge of the three R's. But it should go deeper and develop the person mentally, morally and spiritually. This can only be undertaken by a new system which aims at developing the human being rather than at pumping into the brain of the individual, great many items of information.

With this objective, Gandhiji has formulated what has come to be known as "the basic schemes of education." According to this system, a child is instructed, not only in the sciences and arts, but also how to live. For instance, great emphasis is laid on the teacher closely directing the child in all its actions. A satisfactory medium of education for this purpose has been found to be one that is founded on a craft. While the child is practising the craft the child's mind is receptive. To the child the practice of the craft becomes play, and it ceases to be what we call "work." As an example, if we take a child that is being taught ginning and carding of cotton, the teacher teaches the child, the proper posture to adopt and the suitable layout of his implements. The important thing is not getting so many slivers by employing child labour. If, for example, in placing, say, a piece of newspaper on which to card the cotton, the child keeps it at an angle and not parellel to his "asan" on which he is seated, the teacher would draw the attention of the child and ask him whether it is better as it is, or should he rather arrange the newspaper to lie in such a way as to have its edge parallel to the edge of the seat. This would immediately draw the attention of the child that in everything he does, there should be logical arrangement, order, and neatness. This training is much more important to the growth of the child than the material product his work puts forth.

When the village people have had this type of education they would become conscious of their various duties to their fellowmen and will have resourcefulness enough to manage their affairs. No education based purely on information and literacy can ever develop the inherent qualities of an individual. Strictly speaking, we may say that the basic system of education aims at training an individual for the responsibilities of full citizenship. When India attains the place of full responsibility in the Counsel of Nations, it will be incumbent on our villages to bear their share, which will not be by any means negligible. The ancient civilization of India was founded on a village centred economic organization and if India is to make its contribution to the world at large it must be on a culture which is its very own. True democracy cannot be founded by practising centralization in economics. Centralized industries ultimately lead to dictatorship in politics. It is not by any accident that the highly industrialized countries of the world found themselves under veritable dictators as soon as a crisis presented itself.

If we aim that our rural development should lead us ultimately to the development of the individual to his full stature, to the complete satisfaction of his wants, to enable him to take his full share in the nation's life, to develop a culture which will be distinctive of his environment and which will being about goodwill among men; we shall have to bestow careful and studied attention on our rural development plans because it is only through such planned life that we can achieve our ends. No amount of emphasis laid on the material contribution of the villages to the towns and cities will ever give us these results that we seek. Therefore those who are entrusted with rural development plans should enter on their work with the fullest sense of responsibility and not look upon it as a scheme to placate for a while the cry for the betterment of the countryside. Rural development is the basis on which the future world order can be built up much more satisfactorily and with much greater stability than any agreement between the Powers that be, can bring to the present world sunk in desperation and distress.

[By courtesy, A.I.R., Madras]

Food Crisis Tided Over ; But . . .

Hard Times Still Ahead, Warns Minister

Buffer Stocks must be built up

The following is the talk Broadcast by the Hon'ble Dr. T. S. S. Rajan, Food Minister, on the 1st November 1947.

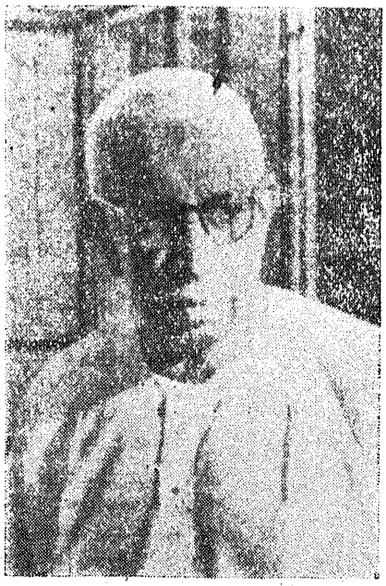
It is with immense relief that I am talking to you to-day about the food situation in the Province. I confess that during the dark days of June and July when procurement was going down week after week, when stocks were dwindling and when the Government of India kept on saying that the help which they could render was very limited and that the provinces should rely on its own resources, I had moments of despair as to how we could carry on till the end of the year without a breakdown. If the food situation has been saved, as it has been, and if the province has not experienced any calamity, it is entirely due to the hearty co-operation of the producers in the province to whom I hereby express my thanks. We sanctioned the scheme of bonus in July 1947 in order to induce producers to part with their stocks. The momentary inducement offered by it coupled with the personal appeals made by every one of my colleagues and myself to the producers in the Province, during our intensive procurement tours in August and September 1947, and the personal appeals made by the heads and subordinates of the several departments of the Government had a very satisfactory response as the figures for procurement between 24th July 1947 and 9th October 1947 clearly indicate. I can now say with pride that the procurement during this period amounted to 296,886 tons of rice as

against 162,517 tons procured during the corresponding period of last year, even though there was a better inducement in the shape of a more generous bonus last year. The procurement, particularly for the weeks beginning from the first week of September, greatly improved culminating in the record procurement of 38,353 tons during the week ending 10th October 1947. This shows that the producers, as a body, had realized the gravity of the situation, and had, in response to our appeals and no doubt at some sacrifice and inconvenience to themselves, come to the help of the country at a most critical moment.

Our year for food purposes, as you know, is the kharif year, and begins from the 1st of November. The final forecasts of production of rice and millets in the Province for the current kharif year were estimated at 47·95 lakhs and 23·38 lakhs of tons against the normal production of 49 lakhs of tons of rice and 28 lakhs of tons of millets. After allowing at the rate of 1 lb. per adult per day to meet the needs of the producers and also for their seed and wage requirements the target for the year was fixed at 17·94 lakhs of tons of rice and 1·53 lakhs of tons of millets with reference to the efficiency ratio indicated by the procurement in previous years. Last year, the target for rice was fixed at 14·02 lakhs against which 13·54 lakhs of tons was procured. This year, up to 9th October 1947, 13·81 lakhs of tons of rice and 94,320 tons of millets have been procured. If the present rate of procurement is maintained, we should be able to procure about a lakh of tons of rice and about 9,000 tons of millets more before 1st November 1947. Thus you will see that this year's procurement does not lag behind last year's in spite of severe handicaps.

In the beginning of the Kharif year in anticipation of a better crop and in the hope of securing help from the Government of India on the same scale as in the previous year the Provincial Government increased the ration from 8 to 10 ounces in December 1946 and then to 12 oz. in February 1947.

Our hopes did not however materialize. Again the large scale experiment in procurement work made in the highly surplus districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur—by the formation of the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies at a rather break-neck speed in December 1946 with initial handicaps such as want of experience, want of



Hon'ble T. S. S. Rajan

capital and want of proper staff, etc., naturally affected procurement adversely. Procurement between January and March 1947 immediately after the harvest was unsatisfactory instead of being the peak. The Government had to decide though reluctantly, to restore the millers and to abolish the procuring licences of the co-operative societies. In doing this, the Government were purely actuated by consideration of putting the food position of the Province in a safe and sound basis. At the same time, the Government were compelled in view of the dwindling stocks of rice to reduce the ration to 10 oz. in May and the rice ration to 8 oz. in July but with an addition of 2 oz. of millets. The Government however directed the supply of potatoes in the statutorily rationed areas, the cost of transport being subsidised by Government. Rice is still on this attenuated scale of 8 oz. with the addition of 2 oz. of millets to rice eaters. It is possible that here and there this extra 2 oz. of millets was not distributed for a short while for want of stocks but I would like you to remember that we were passing through a food crisis and neighbouring states like Mysore, Cochin and Travancore were obliged to reduce their rations. I can assure you that everything possible was and is being done to maintain our present scale of rationing, which I know is not quite adequate.

Apart from the failure of the newly formed producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in the matter of procurement, there was a marked reluctance on the part of the producers to part with their stocks. Several reasons contributed to this, viz., the dissatisfaction of the producers with the prices offered by the Government; the availability of plenty of money with the ryots in the upland areas of the producing districts due to the better value derived from the cultivation of commercial crops which enabled them to offer black-market prices for rice and to some extent the change over of the procurement agency from the societies back to millers. Extensive black-marketing was noticed in the Guntur district initially and it spread to almost all other surplus districts of the Province in varying degrees. So far as prices are concerned, the Government had explained to the producers by means of several press notes that their hands were tied and that they could not offer more, as that was not viewed with fovour by the Government of India. They also informed the ryots that they had no intention of either increasing the price during the year or granting any bonuses. However, in order partly to meet the viewpoint of the producers, the Government decided in April 1947, to allow them some increase in the price up to 4 annas per imperial maund by reducing wherever possible the allowance given to the intermediaries. This step did not result in any appreciable increase in procurement. To accentuate our difficulties the very unsatisfactory food position throughout the world and the extensive failure of crop which had occurred in Northern India, stood in the way of the Government of India helping us materially. Of course, they were and they are allocating to us whatever quantity of foodgrains were received from overseas and from the other surplus Provinces. But they could not help us even to the extent of one half of what they did in 1946, when they gave us about 6 lakhs of tons of foodgrains whereas up to 9th October 1947 we have had only 134,542 tons of rice and 43,333 tons of millets, wheat, etc., 55,135 tons.

During the rest of October, we expect only about 22,000 tons of foodgrains making a total import of only 2½ lakhs of tons of foodgrains in the current year against 6 lakhs during the previous year. Another impediment to efficient procurement was the village committees constituted last year. These committees as a general rule took a parochial view of things and used their influence to retard procurement, to inflate the requirements of the producers and to reclassify as many of the cardholders

as rice eaters as they could. The Government had, therefore, to authorize the Collectors to override the recommendations of the Village Committees if they considered that their recommendations were unjustified. A third impediment was the general order that was in force that co-operative societies should, as a rule, be preferred to private merchants. This order tied the hands of the Collectors and even if they are convinced that a change of the agency was necessary in the interests of procurement, they could not give effect to it.

These were the initial difficulties met with by us during the early days of our taking up office and we had to set about to find remedies for the same. As I stated earlier, the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in the Circars were ordered to be replaced by the millers. We also modified the instructions issued in favour of co-operative societies and gave discretion to Collectors to choose any agency and to change the existing agency if such a change was found necessary in the interest of procurement. To meet the reluctance of producers to part with their stocks the Government decided, though they had previously made declarations to the contrary, to grant a bonus of Re. 1 per imperial maund to all producers. One half of it was to be paid in cash and the other paid in the shape of manure to encourage them to increase production on the lands. To avoid discrimination in the matter of the grant of bonus, the Government also ordered the payment of the bonus with retrospective effect for all deliveries made from the 1st of December 1946 up to 31st October 1947. All these steps helped, of course, in the increase in procurement. However, a review of the position at the end of July revealed that unless procurement was intensified, the Province could not escape a calamity. All my colleagues and myself, therefore, decided to make an intensive tour of all the districts in the Province and make a personal appeal to the producers to part with their stocks. At the same time all the heads of departments and their subordinates were required to contract the producers personally as far as they could and appeal to them to come to the help of the people and the Government by sparing whatever surplus they could. This intensive tour of the Ministers and the appeal by officers began to bear quick fruits and the procurement figure which was so low as 13,889 tons of rice for the week ending 28th August 1947 gradually went up week by week and exceeded 39,000 tons for the week ending 16th October 1947. It was due to this very satisfactory procurement which far outstripped the performance during the corresponding period of last year that we have been able to tide over a crisis. On the 9th October 1947, we were having a stock of 1·64 lakhs tons of rice and 21,000 tons of other foodgrains making a total of 1·85 lakhs of tons, which is sufficient to carry us for one and a half months. And during the rest of October we expect to procure a substantial quantity so that in the beginning of November we may expect to have at least the same stocks on hand.

Though we have thus tided over a crisis, it should be remembered that we are still living a hand to mouth existence. The Government are well aware that the intensive procurement drive sweetened by doses of bonuses have drawn out all the reserves that the producers have been keeping and that the situation hereafter will become critical if any unfavourable season or any other calamity affects the production of foodcrops for the next year. So far, the prospects of crops for the next year appear to be more or less normal and the Government expect that production will be approximately on the same scale as in the present year. However, from the estimates which the Government of India are able to make of the possibilities for import during the next year, it would seem that we cannot place our faith upon any appreciable imports during the next year also and that we should be thankful if we are able to get as much as we have received from the Government of India during the present year. This is likely to add to our difficulties.

The Government have under consideration the question of fixing fair prices for the foodgrains for the next kharif year and they expect to prevail upon the Government of India to take a realistic view of the situation and grant such increase over the existing prices as may be justified. The Government of India have recently appointed a committee to go into the question of the foodgrains policy to be adopted for the future and I am sure the committee will go into all aspects of the question in full. The producers need therefore be under no misapprehension that they would have to suffer under the same disability as in the present year by producing foodcrops. The Government also intend to do everything possible in their power to see that the cultivators' requirements for the cultivation of foodgrains are made available to them at reasonable prices in adequate quantities.

I would therefore appeal to the producers to come to the help of the Government and the people of the Province by surrendering all their surplus grains immediately after the harvest to the Government procurement agents. If the next long-term crop is normal and if procurement proceeds satisfactorily, the Government have every intention to restore the rice ration to 10 ounces as soon as it may be done. The Government will do everything in their power to see that the maximum quantities are made available from imports to this Province by the Government of India. It should be remembered that unless the requirements of the entire population for a period of six months at least is built up as a buffer stock it would be unthinkable to relax control over prices, procurement and rationing and I make an earnest appeal to the producers to co-operate in producing enough to build up such a buffer stock at the earliest possible time.

No More "On His Majesty's Service"

The Government have ordered that in future the superscription "On Madras Government Service" (O.M.G.S.) should be adopted on envelopes and other stationery in the place of the existing superscription "ON HIS MAJESTY'S SERVICE" (O.H.M.S.).

(Continued from page 12)

a result of the subsidence of the small-pox epidemic of 1945. The number of vaccinations done in the year, however, represented 16·5 per cent of the population of province as compared to 14·1 per cent in 1944 and 23·2 per cent in 1945.

Town-Planning and Housing.—The Town-Planning Act was in force in 83 municipalities including the Corporation of Madras and in 92 panchayats.

Poonamallee Health Unit.—The re-organised Health Unit functioned during the year and there was some progress in regard to the water supply, conservancy and maternity and child welfare services. The unit continued to be an important training centre for public health workers.

Crossing wild with cultivated plants

Note on Research Experiments

Hybridization with wild cotton is included as an item in the programme of the Cotton Breeding Station, Coimbatore. The main characters for which these wild types are sought for are drought insect or disease resistance. It has been found that *G. darwinii*, *G. taitense* and *G. tomentosum* among the tetraploid Americans, *G. raimondii* and *G. trilobum* among the diploid Americans, and *G. Anamolun* among the diploid Asiatics are the most promising varieties for such purposes. Crosses with diploid Americans lead to the production of sterile progeny which have either to be doubled with colchicine or backcrossed to tetraploids for imparting fertility. In seed plants in general the problem of wide crossing is not as simple as in sugarcane where a promising bio-type can be immediately propagated and multiplied vegetatively. Fertility and stability have, however, to be slowly, methodically and patiently built up.

(2) Under oil-seeds crossing between sesamum orientale with Malabar wild gingelly was successful and a strain X. 38 was evolved. It shows a good degree of resistance to wilt and shoot webbar attack.

(3) *Millets.*—Crosses have already been done between wild and cultivated cholam to induce hardiness, disease resistance, etc., but the progeny has not inherited the desirable economical characters.

Ragi selections suited to the hills have been gathered and are under yield test. Crosses made with the hill ragi when tried in the plains have proved to be unsuccessful.

(4) *Paddy.*—A collection of wild rices—indegenous and exotic—was undertaken even at the time of opening of the Paddy Breeding Station, Coimbatore. Eight such species are now grown year after year in the station along with the world collection of 2,000 cultivated types of paddy. Work has also been started to cross the dry paddy strains of MTU 17 and MTU 18 with wild rices to improve the drought resistant character of the two strains.

Food Situation in the Province

Report for the first fortnight of October

Market conditions and trend of prices.—There were no marked changes in the prices of principal food stuffs. The position regarding the prices of oils, oil-seeds, oil-cakes, etc., was as follows :—

No change.—Gingelly oil-cake.

Rise.—Groundnut oil-cake (0·3 per cent) and cotton seed (0·5 per cent).

Fall.—Groundnut shelled (7·0 per cent) and gingelly seed (2·0 per cent).

Copra (5·1 per cent), coconut oil (9·1 per cent), gingelly oil (3·4 per cent) and groundnut oil (8·3 per cent).

Procurement.—The following statements show the quantities of paddy, rice and millets locally procured in the Province and the quantities of cereals and pulses imported from sources outside it—

(*a*) Local procurement during the fortnight ending 30th September 1947—

	TONS.
Paddy	60,430
Rice	22,928
Millets	7,576

Together equivalent to 65,191 tons in terms of rice.

(*b*) Receipts from other provinces and states during the fortnight ending 15th October 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	633
Millets	..
Wheat and wheat products	..
Pulses—	
Redgram	..
Blackgram	166
Greengram	..
Bengalgram ..	194
Total ..	360

(*c*) Imports from overseas during the fortnight ending 15th October 1947—

	TONS.
Rice	1,770
Millets	..
Wheat	2,000
Wheat products ..	..

Stock and supply position (principal foodstuffs)—*Rice.*—Though the total provincial stock has increased from 143,286 tons on 25th September 1947 to 163,955 tons on 9th October 1947 mainly as a result of an improvement in procurement, the position continued to be unsatisfactory in some districts notably East Godavari, Guntur, Ramnad, South Kanara and Vizagapatam. The situation was particularly critical in East Godavari, Guntur and South Kanara where the stocks were less than a week's requirements and to the two last mentioned districts supplies are being sent from surplus areas.

Among the surplus districts, East Godavari is not in a position to resume exports until November when the short-term crop comes in, while Guntur is finding it difficult to manage even on local procurement and Nellore has ceased to export rice as its present stocks and further procurement have to be conserved for local needs till the next main harvest in January 1948. The position in Kistna may not admit of any appreciable exports in November though it can undertake exports in December when the new crop will be harvested and as a consequence the districts of Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool, which depend usually on Kistna have been switched over to the Tanjore district in the south temporarily. The position, therefore is that the deficit districts will have to be fed in November mainly from the short-term crops in the two northern districts of East Godavari and West Godavari and the southern district of Tanjore. Supplies from Tanjore to several districts are being made mostly in the shape of paddy as the export quota fixed is more than the district's milling capacity.

Millets.—The stock of millets in the Province fell slightly from 18,031 tons on 25th September 1947 to 17,436 tons on 9th October 1947. The heavy issues during the weeks ending 2nd October 1947 and 9th October 1947 were offset by the large quantity of 7,438 tons of millets procured during the period. The stock of millets is very low in the districts of Bellary, Nellore, Guntur, Madura, and the

Nilgiris. Arrangements have been made for the transfer of 500 tons of millets from Tinnevelly to Madura and 200 tons of millets from Coimbatore to the Nilgiris. With the approval of the Government, orders are now being issued for the supply of wheat in lieu of millets up to 2 oz. per adult per day in the districts of Madras, Bellary, Nellore, Guntur and Cuddapah and these districts have been allotted quotas of 500, 500, 300, 100 and 100 tons respectively out of the shipment already received at Madras port.

Maize.—The stock fell from 625 tons on 25th September 1947 to 520 tons on 9th October 1947. The stock may be expected to be sold out completely in 3 weeks.

Barley.—The stock of barley on 9th October 1947 was 137 tons against 138 tons on 25th September 1947. The offtake in August 1947 was 81 tons.

Wheat and wheat products.—The stock of wheat and wheat products on 9th October 1947 was 2,807 tons and 570 tons respectively.

Pulses.—Scarcity of pulses and gram continues to be felt in the districts. In Madras City, the stock of greengram has run out and special arrangements are being made to meet the requirements under the informal rationing scheme.

Transport, Storage and Inspection—

Transport.—No remarks.

Storage.—The Government of Madras have purchased the sheds of the Naval department at Chromepet and it is proposed to use two of them as additional storage space for food-grains procured on Government account.

Inspection.—No remarks.

Rationing.—It was observed that the concession under which non-meals hotels were getting small quantities of broken rice for the preparation of savouries, which require an admixture of rice or rice flour, was being abused by the preparation of eatables which require large quantities of rice. In view of the critical stock position of rice in the Province, the preparation and sale of rice idlis by the catering establishments including trash bazaars has been prohibited.

Subsidiary foodstuffs—Jaggery.—The stock position of jaggery in all the districts of the Province is quite satisfactory. The Government of Madras have, with the approval of the Sugar Controller for India, ordered that a quota of 2,000 tons of jaggery be allowed to be exported to the Central Provinces and Berar in addition to the quota already allotted to them during the current year and that this quota be supplied from the North Arcot and Bellary districts in equal quantities. Instructions have been issued to the Collectors of these districts for the grant of permits for the immediate movement of the quota on receipt of despatching instructions from the Government of the Central Provinces and Berar.

Coffee seeds.—There was acute scarcity of coffee seeds in Madras City during September 1947 as no auction sales were held by the Chief Coffee Marketing Officer, Bangalore, during August 1947. Auction sales were held between 2nd to 23rd September 1947 at various centres. The City received a supply of about 67 tons during September out of which a quantity of 47 tons was sold to consumers in that month. The position has not improved even now and the question of imposing a ban on the transport of coffee seeds outside the Madras City till 31st December 1947 as was done in 1945 is under consideration. The October release of coffee seeds is expected to reach the City by the 20th of this month when it is expected that the supply position may improve.

Potatoes.—The control over the price and movement of potatoes within this Province has been removed with effect from 6th October 1947.

Salt.—The maximum ex-factory wholesale prices of salt in the producing centres have been fixed and a notification issued to that effect under section 3 (2) (c) of the Essential Supplies (Temporary Powers) Act, 1946 (Central Act XXIV of 1946). The District Collectors have been empowered to fix the wholesale and retail prices of salt for each consuming area in their respective jurisdiction.

Miscellaneous commodities.—Scarcity of matches has been reported from Chingleput district.

Labour Situation in the Province

Report for the first fortnight of October

Thursday, the 2nd October 1947, being Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday, was declared a public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act. The Birthday was celebrated in a fitting manner throughout the Province by holding public meetings and taking out processions. The managements of most of the firms, workshops and factories closed their concerns to enable the workers to take part in the celebration.

Sri Rao Bahadur M. Venkataramayya, Court of Inquiry for Motor Transport Services and Transport Workshops and Industrial Tribunal, Madras, on return from leave, rejoined duty on the afternoon of Monday, the 6th October 1947.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and managements of beedi factories in the districts of Chittoor, Anantapur, Bellary and Kurnool to the Industrial Tribunal, Bezwada, for adjudication.

The Government have declared under section 2 (n) (vi) of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 (Central Act XIV of 1947), the Electric Tramway Services, Motor Transport Services and the Cotton Textile Industry as public utility services for a period of six months from the date of publication of this notification.

The Government have informed the Southern India Mill Owners' Association, Coimbatore, and the managements of Saradha Mills, Coimbatore, Thirumurthi Mills, Udumalpet, Kamala Rajendra Mills, Salem, and Jayaram Mills, Limited, Rajapalayam, that their grievances have been placed before the Government of India with a recommendation that the higher wages allowed by the award of the Industrial Tribunal should be taken into consideration in revising the prices of lower counts of yarn and that the Government of India have assured them that the recommendation will be considered and the price revision question is being discussed with the Textile Control Board.

The Government have accepted the award of the adjudicator in the dispute between the workers and the management of the East Asiatic Company, Limited, Madras.

The Government have accepted the award of the Industrial Tribunal in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Presidency Transport, Limited, Madras.

The Government of Madras have referred for adjudication the dispute between the workers and the managements of foundries and engineering firms, Madras, mentioned below, to the Industrial Tribunal, Madras :—

(1) The Basin Foundry, Washermanpet, Madras.

(2) The Maxwell Engineering Works, Kondithope, Madras.

(3) The Lakshmi Engineering Works, De'Mellows Road, Madras.

(4) The Standard Engineering Works, Komaleswaranpet, Madras.

(5) The Swaminathan Foundry, Wall-Tax Road, Madras.

(6) The Essor Engineering Works, Sydenhams Road, Periamet, Madras.

(7) The Bombay Engineering Works, Sunkurama Chetti Street, Madras.

(8) Sri Durga Foundry, Kondithope, Madras.

(9) The Chandra Foundry, Basin Bridge Road, Madras.

(10) The Swamy Foundry, Choolai, Madras.

(11) The Saraswathi Foundry, Pulianthope, Madras.

The Government have referred to Sri P. C. Sundaram Ayyangar, retired District and Sessions Judge, as an Industrial Tribunal in the dispute between the workers and the management of the Nataraja Engineering Works, Kondithope, Madras, for adjudication. In G.O. Ms. No. 4840, Development, dated 11th October 1947, the Government have also prohibited the continuance of the lockout and strike in the factory.

The Government have appointed the Hon'ble Mr. K. P. Lakshmana Rao, *Kt.*, Judge of the High Court of Judicature, Madras, as an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication of the dispute between the workers and the management of the Buckingham and Carnatic Mills Company, Limited, Madras, in supersession of the previous orders appointing him as a Court of Inquiry. The Tribunal has been requested to appoint two assessors (one representing the workers and the other representing the management) to advise it in the proceedings.

In the Western India Match Company, Limited, Tiruvottiyur, owing to the use of inferior kinds of wood in the box-making department, the workers who could not earn their normal wages on piece rates, staged a stay-in-strike demanding higher rates. The management notified that there would be no work in the other departments. The workers struck work on 3rd October 1947. The management pleaded inability to secure the proper kinds of wood from Malabar on account of reduction in supply of petrol. With the assistance of the Joint Secretary, Development Department, the management were able to secure more petrol and the workers resumed work on 4th October 1947.

The workers of the Sun Rise Glass Works, Limited, Tiruvottiyur, numbering about 175, struck work on 26th September 1947 as a protest against the discharge of one of the workers. The workers resumed work on the management's assurance that the worker would be reinstated after 4 days' suspension.

The management declared 2nd October 1947 (Mahatma Gandhi's birthday) as a holiday, on the workers agreeing to work on Sunday, 5th October 1947. The workers did not turn up for work on 5th October 1947. Thereupon the management declared a lockout on 6th October 1947. The Labour Officer, Madras, is looking into the matter.

The Labour Officer, Coimbatore, reports that the management of the Kamala Mills, Limited, Singanallur, Coimbatore, has proposed to close down their mills from 16th October 1947 on the ground that they have been working the mills at a loss. The Commissioner of Labour has recommended to Government to permit the mills to spin higher counts of yarn. The management have also been advised not to close the mills. The Government have also been requested to advise the management by wire not to close their mills.

The Inspector of Factories, Cocanada, has reported that the National Engineering Works, Cocanada, which was closed on 17th September 1947 for want of raw materials, reopened on 1st October 1947, with about 20 workers, having secured some raw materials.

The management of the Suryanarayana Spinning Mills, Pandalapaka, have decided to close down the mills from 16th October 1947 as they have sustained a loss of Rs. 20,000 within five months after implementing the award of the Industrial Tribunal.

The management of the Ellore Motor Transport, Limited, Ellore, have reported that the Ellore Division Motor Employees' Union and the Gudivada Division Motor Employees' Union have given a notice of strike intimating that the workers will strike work if they are not paid the interim relief before 17th October 1947.

The Government have been addressed to instruct the District Magistrate to prosecute the managements who have failed to implement the award. The workers have been advised not to resort to strike pending orders of Government.

Consequent on a strike by the workers of the Mahalakshmi Mills, Pasumalai, on 11th September 1947 the management declared a lockout from 12th September 1947. In their Order Ms. No. 4584, Development, dated 24th September 1947, the Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the management to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication. The Government have also prohibited the strike and lockout as the dispute has already been referred for adjudication and issued an order to that effect in G.O. No. 4607, Development, dated 25th September 1947. The workers have resumed work on 15th October 1947 on the assurance given by Government that their interests would be safeguarded.

The Managing Agent of the Malabar Spinning and Weaving Company, Limited, Kallai, has reported that as the mill is working at a heavy loss as a result of the implementation of the award it was resolved by the Directors to close the mill with effect from 11th November 1947 after issuing proper notice to the workers and the authorities.

The Government have referred the dispute between the workers and the managements in Beedi Factories in Tinnevelly district to the Industrial Tribunal, Madura, for adjudication.

Resettlement and Employment of Ex-Servicemen

The Government of India have constituted an Employment Advisory Committee to advise the Regional Directorate of Resettlement and Employment, Madras, on matters relating to the resettlement and employment of demobilised services personnel and discharged war workers and the training of ex-servicemen in the Presidency.

Mr. Syed Abdul Quadir, Regional Director of Resettlement and Employment, will be the Chairman.

The Committee will consist of 36 members including officials and non-officials.

Activities of the Education Department

Salient Features during October 1947

Education—Special.—The Secondary Training section attached to the Government Hobart Secondary and Training School for Muslim Women, Royapetta, was amalgamated with the secondary training section in the Viscountess Goschen Secondary and Training School for Muslim Women, Trichinopoly, for want of strength in the former. For the same reasons the Government Training School for Muslims, Guntur, was amalgamated with the Government Training School for Muslims, Madras.

Government have permitted the Director to admit to the Nursery Training class in the Lady Willingdon Training College students with such general educational qualifications as he considers sufficient for the purpose.

Government propose to open an Overseers' course from October 1947 in the College of Engineering, Guindy. It is proposed to provide for the training of 100 students in the current year.

Basic Education.—Government have sanctioned the opening of two craft equipment stores, to be opened at Perianaickenpalayam (Coimbatore district) and Vinayashram (Guntur district) to meet the demands of schools for the supply of Basic Craft equipment.

General.—Government have sanctioned the constitution of non-official advisory committees for all Government colleges, secondary and training schools for men and training schools for women for 1948–49. In the case of colleges, the advisory committees will advise the Principals in the matter of selection of students for admission.

Government have approved subject to certain conditions, the proposals of the Director of Public Instruction for the provision of visual education in schools and colleges in the Province as an interim arrangement and arrange for their exhibition in schools and colleges through their own agencies and film concerns recognised by the Director. The Director has also been requested to make speedy arrangement for certifying and grading these films. Final proposals for the provision of visual education, as a long range scheme on the lines of the tentative scheme have also been required to be submitted to Government.

Government have sanctioned the deputation of eight candidates for Training in the Hindustani Talimi Sangh, Wardha.

Madras City electoral rolls to be revised

In a resolution passed on 9th September 1947, the Council of the Corporation of Madras has requested the Government to revise the voters' list and to postpone the elections until such time as is necessary, as the present electoral rolls are considered to be defective. After a careful consideration of the request of the Corporation, the Government have decided to revise the electoral rolls of the Madras City under rule 8 (*a*) in the Introductory portion of the Madras Legislative Assembly Electoral Rules. The Government are accordingly directing the Registration Officer, viz., the Collector of Madras, to prepare a list of amendments to the electoral rolls for the General, Muhammadan, Indian Christain and Anglo-Indian Constituencies of the Madras Legislative Assembly relating to the City of Madras. The 'prescribed date' with reference to which the rolls should be revised will be the 15th November 1947.

2. The following dates have been fixed for the several stages of the revision of the rolls :—

(i) Publication of the preliminary list of amendments—Not later than the 15th January 1948 (Thursday).

(ii) Filing of claims and objections —Not later than the 30th January 1948 (Friday).

(iii) Publication of lists of claims and objections, etc.—Not later than the 6th February 1948 (Friday).

(iv) Commencement of the sittings of the revising authority—On the 13th February 1948 (Friday).

(v) Publication of the final list of amendments—Not later than the 15th March 1948 (Monday).

3. For the convenience of the public of the Madras City extracts of the relevant rules relating to the electoral qualifications in respect of the Madras Legislative Assembly will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette.* November 15th has been fixed as the 'prescribed date' to give an opportunity to those who can be enrolled only on application, e.g., on literacy qualification to present their applications. No person will be included in the electoral roll unless he has attained the age of twenty-one years on the date. Tax and residential qualifications have reference to the previous financial year, viz., 1946–47 and property qualifications have reference to the previous fasli year, viz., the year ending on the thirtieth day of June 1947. Persons who are qualified to be voters but whose names have not been included in the final rolls that are now in force and persons the entries relating to whose names require correction as to the manner or place of entry are hereby called upon to see that their names are included in the respective rolls or their entries corrected.

4. Any person who claims to be included in the rolls of the General, Muhammadan, Indian Christian or Anglo-Indian Constituency of the Assembly by virtue of the undermentioned qualifications, should present an application in the prescribed form in person to the Registration Officer, viz., the Collector of Madras or to an officer subordinate to him not lower in rank than a Revenue Inspector :—

(1) Occupation as sole tenant throughout the previous financial year of a house in respect of which property-tax or house-tax has been paid for both the half-years of that year [paragraph 2 (*e*) of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Government of India Act, 1935].

(2) Being throughout the previous fasli year a kanamdar or kuzhikanamdar or the holder of a kudiyiruppu or a verumpattamdar having fixity of tenure [paragraph 3 (*c*) of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act].

(3) Being throughout the previous fasli year a mortgagee with possession or lessee under a registered instrument of immovable property in the Province (other than house property) of an

annual rent value, in the case of an urban constituency of not less than one hundred rupees and in the case of a rural constituency of not less than fifty rupees [paragraph 3 (*d*) of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act].

(4) Being the guardian of a minor who by virtue of the provisions of paragraphs 1 to 4 of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act would have been entitled to be included in the electoral roll for that constituency if he were of full age (paragraph 5 of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act).

(5) Being a literate (paragraph 6 of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act).

(6) Being the wife of a retired pensioned or discharged member of His Majesty's naval, military or air forces [paragraph 9 (*b*) of Part II of the Sixth Schedule to the Act].

Personal presentation of application is not however necessary in the following cases :—

(1) It is not required in the case of a person who claims to be enrolled by virtue of being a literate and who proves to the satisfaction of the Registration Officer or an officer of the Revenue department not lower in rank than a Revenue Inspector that he possesses a completed Secondary School-Leaving Certificate issued under the authority of the Government of Madras or a qualification declared equivalent thereto. In this case it is enough if an application is sent by post, messenger or agent with necessary evidence as to the existence of the qualification.

(2) In the case of a woman who, according to the custom of the family or community to which she belongs, does not usually appear in public, her husband or other relative may present the application signed by her. The person presenting the application should endorse on the reverse of the application—

'Application presented by me, the applicant claiming exemption from personal appearance.

Signature and address in full.'

Station

Date

It is essential that every application should be accompanied by definite evidence to prove the existence of the qualification relied on. For example, it is not enough if a person seeking inclusion of his name in the rolls on literacy qualification gives the number of his Secondary School-Leaving Certificate or reference to the University Calendar. The Registration Officer or his deputy has neither the time nor the facilities to verify it. For the same reason, applicants should give definite information about nationality, age and residential qualifications in the applications. The declarations in the form of application should invariably be completed.

Forms of applications may be obtained free on application from the offices of Registration Officer, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars and Revenue Inspectors.

5. The Registration Officer will fix the dates for the receipt of these applications at convenient centres in the registration area and notify them for the information of the public. A person who claims inclusion of his name in the rolls by virtue of being a literate should write the application in his own hand in the presence of the Registration Officer or under the certificate of—

(i) an officer in superior service in any Government departments who is not inferior in rank to a lower division clerk and who is not for the time being in foreign service; or

(ii) a person in the service of the Corporation of Madras (including a Government servant in such service), who is in receipt of a pay of not less than Rs. 100 per mensem.

(iii) an Honorary Presidency Magistrate.

Literacy applications may be received by Registration Officer, Tahsildars, Deputy Tahsildars, Revenue Inspectors and Honorary Presidency Magistrates. For the convenience of the public, the following officers of the Corporation of Madras have also been authorized to receive them :—

Assessors.
Licence Supervisors.
Sanitary Inspectors.
Supervisors.

Overseers (including water works and drainage overseers).

6. Under the rules a voter should be registered in that part of the roll which relates to the area where he resides or is believed to reside. In the case of persons who are enrolled on application a certificate of residence has been prescribed. The certificate may be given either by the Registration Officer or an officer of the Revenue department subordinate to him and not lower in rank than a Revenue Inspector. In the case of voter enrolled on literacy qualification such certificates may be given by the persons who certify to their literacy. If a person is not in a position to secure a certificate of residence, he may present the application without it.

Persons giving wrong addresses or certificates are liable to punishment.

7. Persons having claims and objections to prefer with reference to the preliminary list of amendments should do so before the date fixed in that behalf, namely, the 30th January 1948.

Forms of claims and notices of objections may be obtained free on application from the Registration Officer and also from Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars. Claims and objections may be presented to the Registration Officer in person or by agent or sent by post ; Tahsildars and Deputy Tahsildars within the jurisdiction of the Registration Officer are also authorized to receive claims and objections. No claim or objection based on any of the qualifications will be received by any of these authorities after the latest date fixed for the purpose, namely, the 30th January 1948. A claim or an objection sent by post which does not reach the proper authority on or before the due date will be summarily rejected unless there is evidence to show that it was posted in sufficient time to have reached the authority concerned in the usual course on or before the due date. On no account will dates be extended. Claims based on qualifications which should be brought to the notice of the Registration Officer by means of an application in the prescribed form has been duly made on or before the prescribed date, namely, the 15th November 1947, and that it has been improperly rejected.

8. In view of the impending elections to the Corporation, it is very important that the name of every voter should be entered in the correct part of the rolls. Voters are advised to avail themselves of this opportunity to have their names entered in the correct ward.

9. The Government trust that all interested persons in the City will assist the electors by giving publicity to these arrangements and in particular to the need for the applications from literates and others who can be enrolled only on application being made before the 15th November 1947.

All about Labour in India

Did You Know That?

An Asiatic Labour Conference was held at Colombo on May 10 and 11, 1934. Delegates from India, Ceylon and Japan attended it. Among those who represented India were Mr. N. M. Joshi, Mr. Jamnadas Mahta and Mr. S. C. Joshi. Two members of the I.L.O. staff Dr. P. P. Pillai, Director of the Indian Branch of the I.L.O. and Dr. F. I. Ayusawa from Geneva also attended it. A constitution was drawn up and several resolutions dealing with labour problems were adopted.

Only once has the chief of the I.L.O. at Geneva visited India. Mr. Harold Butler, Director of the I.L.O., toured India, Ceylon, Malaya and Netherland Indies during the winter of 1937-38 and recorded his impressions in a report "Problems of Industry in the East" which was published by I.L.O. in 1938.

About 180,000,000 is the total number of Indian workers employed in agriculture, industries, mining, transport services, banking, commercial services, fishing, navigation, etc.

About 100,000,000 or nearly 25 per cent of the population are employed in agriculture and a large number of them are unemployed for about two to four months in a year.

The number of industrial workers in India is estimated at 8,000,000.

There were nearly 4,800,000 workers in organized industries in 1945. Of these, regulated factories employed nearly 2650,000, Mines 350,000, Railways 800,000 and Plantations about 1,000,000.

The number of workers in unregulated factories is estimated at 1,000,000. Of these about 500,000 are engaged in *beedi* making, etc., 140,000 in mica splitting, 30,000 in shellac industry and about 2,000 in carpet weaving.

There are nearly 6,000,000 (2,400,000 wholetime and 3,600,000 parttime and ancilliary) workers on handlooms which provide 25 per cent of the cloth produced for home consumption and they represent 86 per cent of the total textile workers. Over 1,000,000 workers were employed in textile factories in 1945.

Port Labour employed is estimated at 75,000.

The number of seamen according to a recent estimate is 250,000.

About 470,000 workers were engaged in building works in 1931.

Porters and coolies and men engaged on construction by Railways numbered about 200,000 in 1931.

Rickshaw pullers in India number about 50,000.

Coal miners in India exceed 255,000. Of these over 61,000 are women, but they are not allowed to work underground.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were Presidents of the All-India Trade Union Congress.

There were 818 registered Trade Unions in India in 1943-44 with a total membership of 780,967 members, as compared with 29 registered unions in 1927-28, with a membership of 100,619.

One hundred and twenty-two mililons, eighty-five thousand two-hundred and fifteen working days were lost in 1946 due to 1,825 strikes involving 2,310,239 workers. From 1921-1946 (i.e., for a period of 26 years=9,490 days) over 160,000,000 man-days were lost in India due to nearly 9,500 strikes.

A Labour Bureau was set up by the Government of India in 1920. A series of valuable bulletins on factory work were published by the Bureau, but before its ability could be established it was abolished in 1923 as a measure of retrenchment. In consequence, the lead in the creation of a proper Government department for Labour must be credited to the Bombay Government which opened a Labour Office in 1921.

The annual income per worker in urban areas in India was Rs. 426 in 1931-32. In rural areas it was Rs. 135 for the same year. The *per capita* income in that year was Rs. 162 for urban areas and Rs. 48 for rural areas. Rs. 1,243,800,000 were paid as wages in cash to employees in factories covered by the Indian Factories Act in 1945.

There is a lady labour welfare officer in the Central Ministry of Labour to look after the interests of women workers. The Coal Mines Welfare Fund also employs several lady welfare officers for women workers in coal mines.

I.L.O.—And What It Stands For

Unique among inter-governmental agencies, the International Labour Organisation—the I.L.O.—allows representatives of employers and workers share in the making of its decisions and the shaping of its policies. All its constitutional organs include representatives of Governments, employers and workers in the proportion of two for Government and one each for employers and workers.

The object of this 28-year old organisation is to contribute to the establishment of universal and lasting peace by furthering social justice. It seeks by international action to improve labour conditions to raise living standards and promote economic and social stability.

The three basic parts of the I.L.O.'s structure are—

1. The International Labour Conference, its highest authority which meets usually annually. It is a world parliament for labour and social questions. All points of view—Government, employers and workers—find full expression in the conference, for each of these three sections can speak and vote independently.

2. The Governing body, composed of 16 Government representatives and eight representatives each of employers and workers, is the Executive Council of the Organisation and exercises general supervision over the office and frames its budget.

3. The International Labour Office, the I.L.O.'s permanent Secretariat, a world information centre and a publishing house, is staffed by experts drawn from many different countries, whose knowledge, experience and advice are available to all the nations which are members of the Organisation. It has branch offices including one in India and correspondents in many countries.

Fifty-two States are members of this Organisation—

Afghanistan, Albania, Argentine Republic, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominican

Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Liberia, Luxembourg, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Siam, South Africa, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

Conventions and Recommendations

The International Labour Conference seeks to prescribe minimum international labour standards and these take the form either of Conventions, which partake of the nature of international treaties and have therefore to be accepted *in toto* by the ratifying member states or of Recommendations. These are based on careful fact-finding and discussion. As a two-thirds majority of the Conference is required for their adoption, they represent the general agreement of informed world opinion.

Since the first Conference in 1919, the I.L.O. has adopted 80 Conventions and 80 Recommendations. These deal with hours of work, the minimum age for employment, the working conditions of women and young workers, workmen's compensation, social insurance, minimum age-fixing machinery, social standards in non-self-governing territories, holidays with pay, industrial safety, statistics and subjects relating to migration. In June 1946, a precedent was set with the adoption of a Convention fixing an international minimum wage for seamen.

The decisions of the Conference are not automatically binding. Member countries are required to bring Conventions adopted by the Conference to the attention of their competent authorities for possible ratification. If a country ratifies a convention, it assumes the obligation to take measures to bring its legislation into line with the provisions of the convention and to report annually on these measures to the I.L.O.

A Landmark in World Thinking

It was in 1944 at its Philadelphia session that the famous Declaration of the I.L.O. restating its aims and purposes was formulated. This charter, which has been hailed by the late President Roosevelt as a landmark in world thinking, is built around the cardinal truth that 'poverty anywhere constitutes a danger to prosperity everywhere,' and asserts that 'all human beings, irrespective of race, creed or sex, have the right to pursue both their material well-being and their spiritual development in conditions of freedom and dignity, of economic security and equal opportunity.'

In January 1945, after the Dumbarton Oaks Conference had laid the groundwork for the United Nations, the Governing Body of the I.L.O. expressed its wish to be associated with the new organization, and the Paris Conference reaffirmed this desire. As a result, a few months after the United Nations came into being, negotiations were intitiated to define the terms of the Organization's relationship, which resulted in an agreement. Under the terms of the agreement, the United Nations recognized the I.L.O. as a specialized agency having the responsibility of doing the job entrusted to it by Governments in its Constitution.

The I.L.O. thus enters the post-war period as the only international organization born of the First World War to take its place in association with the agencies that have grown out of the second conflict.

The Role of Employment Exchanges

Employers' Co-operation Urged

"Every country in the world is focussing its attention in the resettlement of their ex-servicemen and if India did not do likewise, she would not be able to hold her rightful position amidst the progressive nations of the world. No other country is so very balanced and rich like India in its resources and when fully exploited should be capable of occupying the top rank amidst other countries," observed Mr. T. Sundara Rao Nayudu, Mayor of Madras, in a broadcast talk from the Madras Centre of A.I.R. on 25th October 1947.

In the matter of bringing together speedily and satisfactorily, employers and employment seekers, facilitating mobility of labour either occupationally or geographically, in training and planning for training men and women in the various technical or vocational occupations and in operating as a statistical and advisory bureau the Employment Exchanges have a 'dynamic function in the development of the country.

To-day when the industrialist is able to recruit his labour requirements rather easily and often at the gates of his factory or workshop, he may not fully realize the significance of the employment service. But with the rapid industrialization of the country, on its onward march, the employer is bound to feel the scarcity of man-power, specially skilled, when he will feel the dire need of an institution like this. Further this involves no expense to himself as service performed by the Exchanges, is inspired by the supreme ideal of free, prompt, efficient and impartial service.

The employment service is a very handy mechanism for adjusting the supply, and demand of different categories of workers. The shortage of skilled labour at present in our country fully indicates that the greatest advantage should be taken of utilizing the services of the men returning from the forces. Many of the men have had some kind of training or other while in the army. Besides the greater contracts they were able to make while in the forces with other countries and other peoples, it has brought about a wider outlook and given them new and better ideas. No one should lose sight of this valuable opportunity of harnessing this fine human material towards the growth and development of India's post-war industry.

* * *

Labour Exchanges

A plea for sympathetic understanding of the difficulties of the Labour Exchanges is made by the Government of India with reference to the attitude of some of the employers towards these Exchanges. Employers generally expect the Exchanges to supply skilled labour in all categories and when the expectations are not fulfilled, the tendency is to make a grievance of the fact. Such a tendency betrays a lack of appreciation of the difficulties of the Exchanges. The supply of skilled personnel available in this country in different categories is not adequate to meet the present demand in full. In some categories deficiency is particularly marked and Exchanges are really unable to meet the demand to any appreciable extent. It has also to be remembered that this

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Refugee Relief Work

So far, 133 refugees from the West Punjab and Sind have been admitted to the camp in Madras and 30 have left for Singapore, Burma, Delhi, Bombay and other places in search of relatives and employment. Two refugees died in the hospital, one on account of Tetanus and the other of Malaria. No authorized Sindhi refugee has arrived in Madras so far, though it was agreed to take five thousand of them. Arrangements are being made to provide amenities like water-supply, electricity etc., in the Malayan Emigration Depot, where the Sindhi refugees are to be accommodated. Seventy-two South Indian refugees from Karachi had arrived. They were provided with bed and board in the city as also railway tickets and pocket-money to reach their native places.

The Refugees Relief Committee distributed clothing on the Vijayadasami Day to the refugees. A radio set was presented to the refugees at the Lutteral Gardens. The members of the Ladies Sub-Committee of the Refugees Relief Committee, the Guild of Service and the Red Cross are visiting the camps frequently and assisting in relief work.

The food allowance sanctioned by the Government is being disbursed once a week on every Saturday. Ration cards have been prepared for the refugees and they are purchasing their necessaries from the shop opened at Kilpauk by the Triplicane Urban Co-operative Society. The refugees as a rule cook their own food. Cloth worth about Rs. 30,000 has been purchased for the use of the refugees and it is being stitched into garments by the Jail Department. Saris to the value of Rs. 1,200 have also been purchased. Sanitary arrangements in the camps are supervised by a special medical officer who visits the camps every day and also looks after the health of the refugees. The members of the Indian Hospitality Committee and the Red Cross visited the camps and distributed soaps and tooth brushes to the refugees. Steps are being taken to open a school for the children. The Secretary of the Punjab Association in Madras has gifted a volley ball, a net and other accessories to the refugees.

* * *

The total number of refugees is now 557. Thirty-five of them have left for other provinces of their own accord. Four hundred and twelve Sindhi refugees are among the new arrivals. South Indian refugees numbering 254 have also arrived from Karachi. They were accommodated at the Jamalia camp, Perambur, and clothes and sweets were distributed to them. They will be provided with railway tickets and pocket money at the rates of Rs. 2 per adult and Re. 1 per child to reach their native places. The comforts of all the refugees are being properly attended to. A Health Inspector has been posted to look after the sanitary arrangements in the Lutteral's Garden Camp. The Education Sub-Committee of the Refugee Relief Committee has decided to open a school for the refugee children. The Mayor of Madras has made arrangements to supply daily powdered whole milk to the children in the camp.

Procedure for payment of pensions

The Government of India have laid down the procedure for the payment of advances to their civil pensioners who might have come as refugees from West Pakistan. All such pensioners as possess the pensioners' halves of the Pension Payment Orders should present them to the Accountant-General, Central Revenues, Delhi, who, after making such verification of their genuineness as is possible, will issue a special provisional authority to the treasury at which the payment is required for monthly advances equivalent to the monthly pension to be paid for a period not exceeding three months. The Accountant-General, Central Revenues, will at the same time send extracts from the Pension Payment Orders containing identification particulars together with specimen signatures to enable the treasury officer to identify the pensioner. The pensioner should agree in writing to adjustments of the advances being made against the pension to be drawn later after the proper transfer has been effected. The pensioner's half of the Pension Payment Order will be retained by the Accountant-General, Central Revenues, until the transfer of pension has been carried out in accordance with the normal procedure.

In the case of those who claim payment of pensions without producing their Pension Payment Orders, they should be asked to produce satisfactory evidence about the *bona fides* of their claim. The Accountant-General, Central Revenues, after making a summary enquiry and after verification from their records if possible, may authorize payment of advances equivalent to the residual monthly pension, on the assumption that the original pension would have been commuted to the full permissible extent, for a period not exceeding three months after obtaining an indemnity bond from the claimant with an acceptable surety from a Government official or a bank guarantee. To minimise the risk of inadmissible claims, payment in such cases where pension exceeds Rs. 100 per mensem should be made only through recognized banks. The pensioner should also agree in writing to adjustments of these advances against the pension which may be drawn late after the transfer has been effected.

(*Continued from page* 25)

lack of balance between demand and supply is not peculiar to this country alone and such disparity is noticed elsewhere also. All the same the Exchanges are doing their best to meet the demands of the employers. A spirit of understanding and goodwill on the part of employers will greatly help matters.

There are also one or two other points which may be noted by employers. The trainees are not accustomed to the conditions of work in factories and a brief period in a factory would be necessary to enable them to adjust themselves to new conditions. After this adjustment they are likely to give better satisfaction to their superiors. The employers will also do well to accept semi-skilled persons as apprentices. The Government of India will bear the cost of such apprenticeship training.

[October 30]

Cost of Living Index Figure

During the week ended 1st November 1947, the index number of cost of living for working classes in Madras city remained stationary at 280.

Government Servants' Provident Fund

The Government have extended the General Provident Fund Rules to permanent Government servants in Inferior service also.

Government of India Announces Textile Policy

Standardization Scheme Takes Effect in December

Appeal to Labour for Co-operation

The Government of India have viewed with concern the continued fall in the production of cloth and yarn during the last few months. A variety of reasons have contributed to this fall, amongst which are a recent and progressive shift of production from coarse and medium varieties produced with Indian cotton, to relatively finer varieties, the reduction of the working day from 9 to 8 hours since August 1946, and the general unrest and relaxation of effort which have followed the strain of the war years.

In February 1947, the Government of India appointed an *ad hoc* departmental Committee to investigate the causes of the fall in production, and the price structure which had apparently made it remunerative for the mills to shift production from coarse and medium to finer varieties. This Committee has prepared a scheme for standardization of production, with two main features :—

(*a*) The lowering of the average count produced by each mill, and

(*b*) the reduction of the types and varieties so as to increase production by making the maximum use of the available supplies of yarn.

The scheme will restrict production to such varieties as are in popular demand, reduce unnecessary widths and specify the minimum breaking strength of yarn. The objective is to produce more and better cloth, at the expense of finer varieties worn only by a few classes. This scheme, which is expected to increase production by about 400 million yards of mill cloth and 400 million yards of handloom cloth, has found general support and has been endorsed by the Commodities Prices Board.

The Committee also recommended a revision of the price structure which involved an increase in the price of coarse cloth and yarn. The Commodities Prices Board have viewed this proposal with disfavour and suggested that, if necessary, price adjustments should be secured by an Equalization Fund whereby the prices of fine varieties are utilized to subsidize coarse and medium varieties. Government have carefully considered the report of the *ad hoc* Committee, and the views of the Commodities Prices Board, and have also taken into account the weight of public opinion against any increase in the price of an essential commodity like cloth. They have accordingly decided to remit the whole question to the Tariff Board for advice.

MAIN POINTS IN TEXTILE POLICY

1. Control of cloth and yarn will continue.
2. Production must be increased by 800 million yards.
3. Average count will be lowered and varieties reduced.
4. Tariff Board will advise on question of prices.
5. Equalization Fund will be set up.
6. Quota-holders' commission will be halved.
7. Labour will be compensated for extra work.

Equalization Fund

As an immediate practical measure, however, Government are bringing into force from December 1, 1947, the scheme for the standardization of production referred to earlier.

They are also constituting an Equalization Fund to which will be credited

(*a*) the difference between existing ex-mill prices of fine and superfine cloth and the lower prices which the *ad hoc* Committee believe to be fair ;

(*b*) half of the amount now being paid as quota-holders' commission which Government have decided to reduce with effect from 1st January 1948 from 3 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ; and

(*c*) a surcharge on a sliding scale on "free" yarn sold by mills.

If Government decide on the recommendations of the Tariff Board to increase the prices of any types or varieties of cloth or yarn, such increase will be given retrospective effect on all cloth and yarn delivered by the mills under the standardization scheme after 1st December 1947, provided a prescribed target of production has been reached. "On account" payments will be made to a mill if such assistance is shown to be necessary for the maintenance of production.

Regional and Unit Production Committees consisting of representatives of labour and industry will also be set up to ensure that there is no leakage at the mill end and that labour fully co-operates in the production programme. Government will appeal to labour to work slightly longer hours than at present as an emergency measure. Any overtime will be adequately remunerated. Besides such compensation, suitable labour welfare measures in the Cotton Textile Industry will be financed by Government out of the Equalization Fund, which it is proposed to create on the lines suggested by the Commodities Prices Board.

Control to continue

During recent weeks there has been considerable controversy on the question of decontrol of cloth and yarn. Government are of the view that with supplies well below demand, immediate decontrol would only lead to a repetition of the shortages and the high prices which occurred in 1943 and were the direct reasons for the institution of the existing control over cloth and yarn. Apart from the grave hardships which will ensue, should such a situation recur, an increase of the price levels of cloth and yarn to those of 1943 would start an inflationary spiral dangerous to the country's economy. If, however, the present scheme for increase of production should produce the expected results, relaxation or withdrawal of existing control would become feasible. It is the policy of Government to continue the control only so long as is necessary in the best interests of the country, and in a form which will throw the least inconvenience on consumer and producer alike.

Industrial Planning Committee

The Government have permitted the Industrial Planning Committee appointed by them to co-opt persons having expert knowledge of particular industries to help it in drafting the final report.

In co-opting such additional members, no extra expenditure should, however, be incurred by the Committee, except that on the travelling allowance admissible to the new members, without the specific sanction of the Government.

Producers-cum-consumers societies in Circar Districts

Summary of Recommendations of Enquiry Committee

The following summary of the recommendations of the Enquiry Committee on the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in Northern Circar districts is issued to the Press:—

1. To provide for the permanent working of producers-cum-consumers societies, these societies should be reorganized by amalgamating four or five of these into one society, at least after the procurement work is over, to undertake processing of produce and its marketing.

2. The amalgamated societies may be allowed to advance money to their members on the pledge of their agricultural and industrial produce.

3. To facilitate the storage of the produce of the members, these societies may own godowns, besides mills or hullers to undertake processing operations.

4. The societies will establish business relations directly with co-operative organizations in the consuming centres, to their mutual advantage.

5. The Government may examine the societies and give procurement to those societies, whose financial position, management, etc., are satisfactory.

6. The producers-cum-consumers societies should be given distribution (wholesale and retail) of foodgrains and other controlled commodities like sugar, kerosene, cloth, steel, iron implements, manures, etc., as contemplated in G.O. Ms. No. 1034, Food, dated 20th November 1946, so as not to affect the work entrusted to the existing societies.

7. The societies should be reconstituted with the least delay by admitting persons desirous of joining them; general body meetings of the societies should be convened immediately to amend their by-laws as suggested; new directors should be elected according to the new by-laws, after enacting a transitory by-law, terminating the period of service of the present directors and secretaries.

8. The managements of societies shall have the power to appoint persons having the qualifications prescribed as secretaries and accountants and pay them such scales of pay as they may fix, considering their financial condition.

9. Such of the existing secretaries as may have the requisite educational qualifications may be given sufficient training in the Co-operative Institute and re-employed in the societies on the scales of pay to be fixed by societies themselves.

10. The maximum amount a member may invest in a society may be fixed at Rs. 1,000 as provided in the Act and that the value of a share may be fixed at Rs. 10 for the new members.

11. The Government should issue definite instructions to Collectors and other officers, entrusted with the duty of procurement and distribution of rationed articles and controlled commodities and also with the administration of several control orders, to encourage co-operative organizations according to the policy already laid down by Government in G.O. Ms. No. 791, Food, dated 19th September 1946, and also to render all possible assistance for their development.

12. In the interests of proper working, efficient management and future development, the producers-cum-consumers societies should be transferred to the co-operative department.

13. Two Special Deputy Registrars, one for East and West Godavari districts and the other for Kistna and Guntur districts, with necessary subordinate staff, should be appointed immediately to attend to the reorganization and reconstruction of these societies, with the assistance of local Revenue and Co-operative Officers.

14. Necessary staff for the supervision and audit of the societies should be appointed.

15. With a view to facilitate the amalgamation of societies with the least delay, it is recommended that the Government should suspend the provisions of section 13 of the Act, and permit the Registrar to adopt a simpler method to amalgamate the societies.

It may be pointed out here that the committee was constituted in accordance with the terms of G.O No. 2755, dated 25th June 1947, with the following terms of reference: "The Government are anxious to prevent the frittering away of the large share capital collected by the producers-cum-consumers co-operative societies in the four Circar Districts of East Godovari, West Godavari, Kistna and Guntur and to put the societies to the best use possible. They consider that it is desirable to constitute a committee to go into the question of the future of these societies and to suggest ways and means of establishing them on a permanent basis." The members of the Committee were—

1. Sri T. A. Ramalingam Chettiar, M.L.A. (Central), *President*.

2. Sri A. Govindacharyulu, M.L.C., Ellore, West Godavari district.

3. Sri K. Brahmananda Reddy, M.L.A., Guntur district.

4. Sri N. Satyanarayana of Alamuru, East Godavari district.

5. Mr. Mahboob Ali Baig, M.L.A., Bezwada, Kistna district.

6. Sri D. S. Sastri, Agent, Central Bank of India, Limited, Madras.

7. Sri Duggirala Balaramakrishniah.

8. Sri Rao Bahadur J. C. Ryan, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras.

Sri V. Satyanarayana, Special Deputy Registrar of Co-operative Societies, was the Secretary of the Committee.

The Government have expressed their cordial thanks to the President and the members of the Committee for their valuable work.

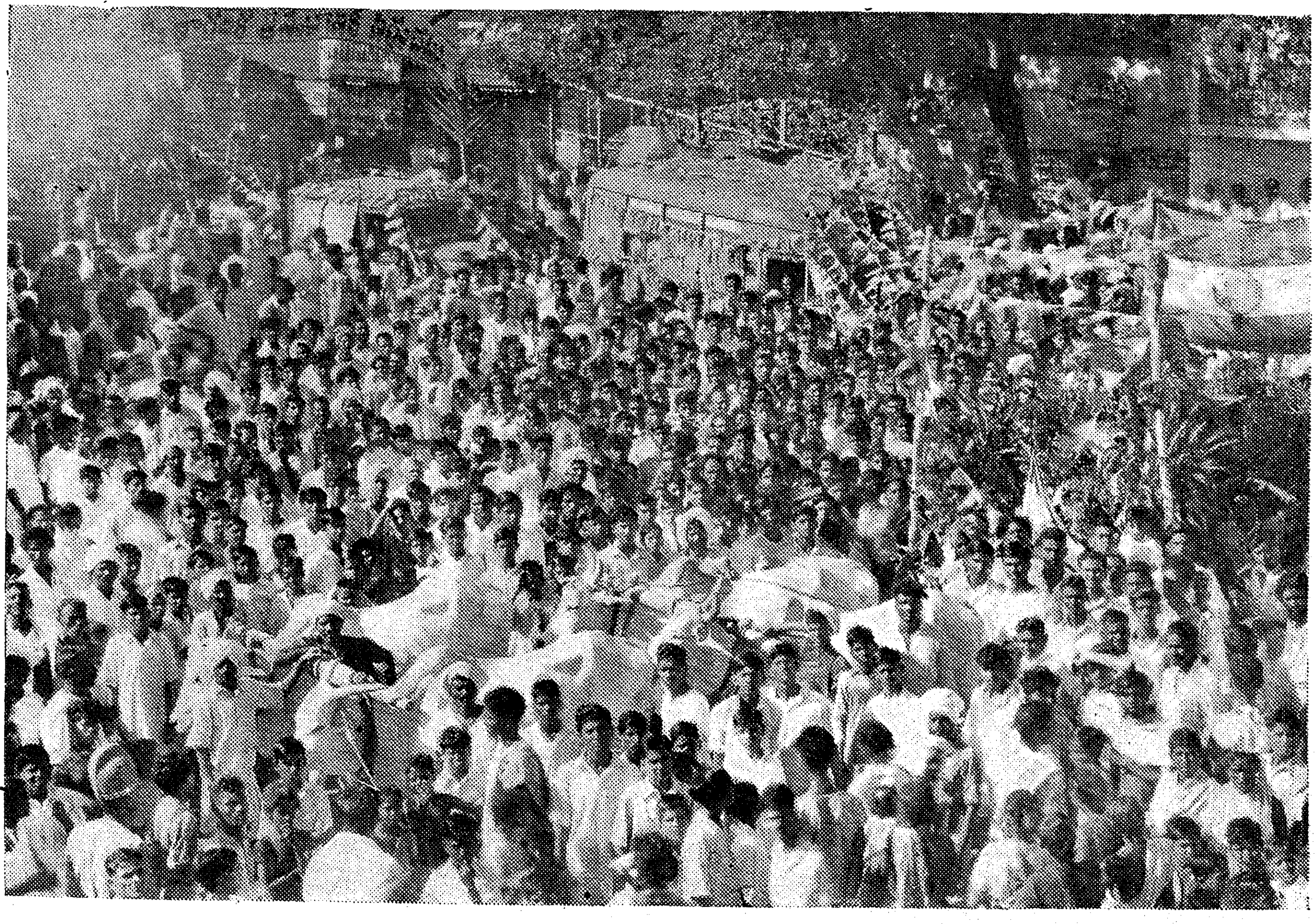
Notice for Subscribers.

Subscribers are informed that in view of the reduced rates of subscrip'ion with effect from 15th October 1947, subscrip ion amounts outstanding on 15th October 1947 and amounts received thereafter at the old rates will be adjusted for a further period at the revised rates.

(Left) *The Honourable Minister Gopala Reddy inaugurated Prohibition in Nellore district*

CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY
27 NOV 1947
MADRAS

(Below) *A procession taken out in that connection*



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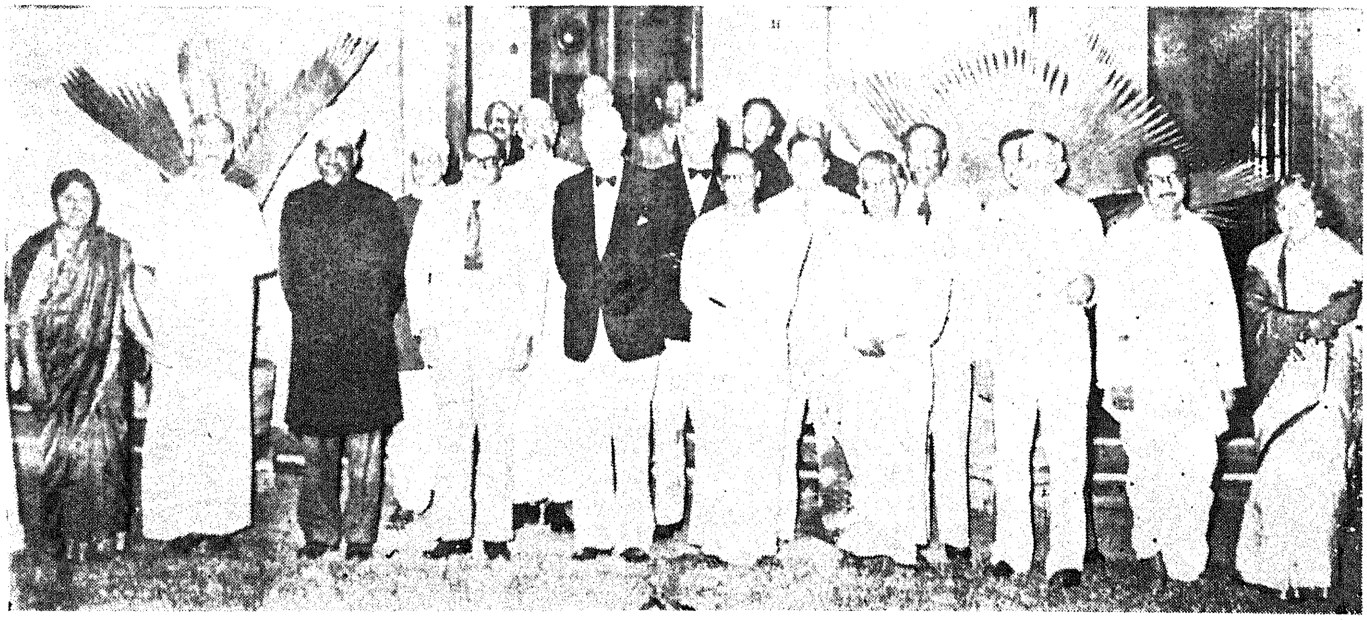
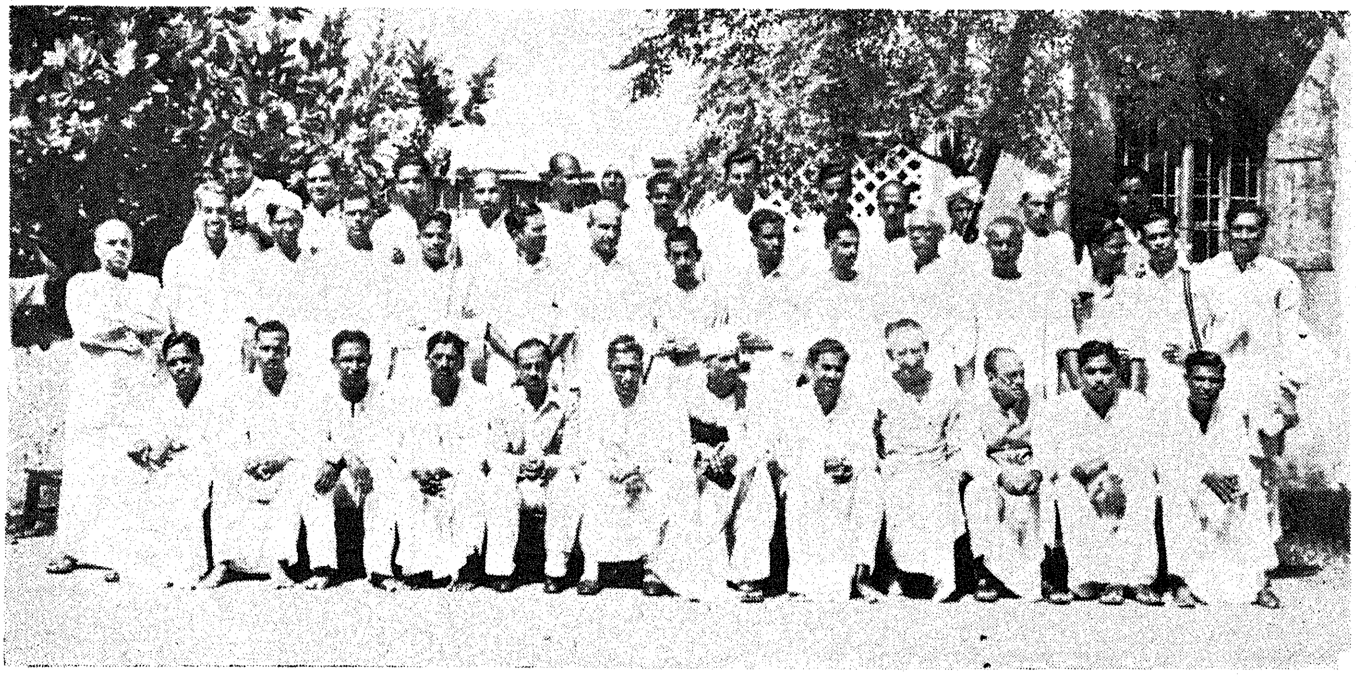


Sir John Sergeant, Educational Adviser to the Government of India was entertained at a tea party at the Connemara Hotel during his recent visit to Madras



Firka Development Officers' Conference

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